



Online's Security Risk Assessment and HIPAA Compliance services assisted a rural hospital pass a HIPAA Audit with flying colors. As a rural 98-bed hospital in Northeast Pennsylvania, they have limited resources to dedicated to security and compliance, but Online's assistance helped demonstrate their dedication to HIPAA Security Rule Compliance.

## THE CHALLENGE

Rural hospitals in the United States have a unique challenge in that they are the custodians of critical and valuable information, yet they lack the funding to implement security controls equivalent to similar organizations in other industries such as finance.

Online's consultants have conducted Security Risk Assessments for this hospital for the past 9 years and aided the organization with their risk management plan. No matter how effective the security controls, though, breaches can and do happen. The hospital suffered a breach of over 1,100 patient records which led to a HIPAA Compliance investigation by the HHS Office for Civil Rights (OCR).

## THE SOLUTION

If not "if" you will be breached but "when". Information security and compliance are focused on preventative controls, but sometimes what matters more is how prepared you are to respond when something does happen.

Even before the breach occurred, Online worked with the hospital to ensure that they had:

- Conducted an annual security risk assessment
- Evaluated compliance with the HIPAA Security Rule
- Documented a security risk management plan
- Tested security controls through vulnerability assessment
- Implemented and reviewed information security policies

After the breach occurred, the hospital followed their responsibilities in documenting and reporting the breach, notifying affected patients, reviewing procedures that led to the breach, making improvements, and retraining its staff.

So, when OCR arrived, the hospital was ready with the documentation they knew OCR would ask for. OCR reviewed the documentation, including the security risk assessment provided by Online and closed the case without any Corrective Action Plan (CAP), fine, or settlement agreement.



## THE RESULTS

Working with Online, the hospital ensured it took all the right steps to be prepared for eventual breaches and an OCR HIPAA Compliance Review. By taking these steps, they are increasing the safety of patient information and preventing costly fines, legal action, and corrective action plans. Online continues to work with the client on an ongoing basis as their security program evolves ensuring that they are appropriately protected at all times.



## NEXT STEPS

To learn more about how Online Business Systems can help your business, visit [obsglobal.com](http://obsglobal.com)

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Online Business Systems is a digital transformation and cybersecurity consultancy. Since 1986, we've been helping enterprise Clients by designing improved business processes enabled with secure information systems. Our unsurpassed delivery, our people, and the Online culture of loyalty, trust and commitment to mutual success set us apart.