

Data breaches still HIPAA compliance concern for healthcare providers



HIPAA concerns, established in 1996 and evolving ever since, continue to be a very real compliance concern for healthcare providers. As an example, last year HHS collected \$28.7 million from providers of healthcare services and payors for responses to HIPAA [data breaches](#) that HHS considered inadequate.

According to [Modern Healthcare](#), this is \$5.2 million over the prior high for settlement and penalties reported in 2016. The data for 2018 may be skewed by the \$16 million settlement by Anthem for a breach involving approximately 79 million people. That breach occurred in 2015, and the settlement was record-setting for the Office of Civil Rights.

Changes being discussed by HHS include the possibility of sharing a percentage of civil monetary penalties or monetary settlements with affected individuals; revisions to HIPAA rules that facilitate the additional information demanded by coordinated care, outcome-focused care and value-based payments; and reconciliation of behavioral health care's 42 CFR Part 2 rules with HIPAA.