

How ProStor InfiniVault® Meets HIPAA Requirements

The ProStor InfiniVault storage system provides significant economic advantage in archiving of information, including DICOM images, and meets multiple regulatory compliance requirements. HIPAA is one of the compliance regulations that ProStor InfiniVault can automate for customers.

The Department of Health and Human Services administers the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) which has two main elements: the Privacy rule and the Security rule. The privacy rule has many parts that are in regard to handling of patient information. The privacy rule took effect on April 14, 2004. The security rule went into effect on April 21, 2005 and has significant implications in the managing and storing of computerized information. Beginning in 2006, enforcement has led to civil penalties and fines for institutions. The increasing number of audits and threats of audits has led to a new urgency in understanding what is required of professionals in Information Technology to comply with the law.

ProStor has developed the ProStor InfiniVault archiving and preservation solution that provides significant economic advantage in archiving data and also meets multiple regulatory compliance requirements. Included in the set of compliance regulations that ProStor InfiniVault covers is HIPAA. ProStor InfiniVault automates the compliance adherence to provide a simple yet defensible answer for meeting legal requirements.

Information Storage Requirement for HIPAA

Protected Health Information (PHI) is the term describing healthcare data that is subject to the privacy and security rules of HIPAA. There are many areas of handling data that have proscriptive rules but the handling of PHI in computerized operations has had the most focus from an enforcement standpoint. The elements of privacy and security in the area of technical safeguards that must be addressed and how ProStor InfiniVault meets the requirements are noted in the following table:

Action	ProStor InfiniVault Solution
Control of Access to Information	ProStor InfiniVault requires that authentication be established to allow authorized access to information contained within the ProStor InfiniVault archive. Passwords are required for identification and for access to administrative functions.
Audit Trail of Access	ProStor InfiniVault keeps an audit trail log of every action taken on a file. The audit trail includes information about the ingestion, every access subsequent, the cartridges and locations where the file resides, and the retention period and actions performed. The audit trail provides a complete chain-of-custody for the PHI.
Media Protection – availability	A minimum of two copies of the PHI are made automatically by ProStor InfiniVault. Additional copies (up to a total of four) may be made for individualized reasons.

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Media Protection – retention	Ingested files are put into independent archives within ProStor InfiniVault and with the archives multiple folders may be configured. Each folder within an archive has a retention period setting. Files will be retained until that retention period expires.
Media Protection – Integrity – protect from alteration or destruction	ProStor InfiniVault stores PHI in WORM (Write Once Read Many) mode both in the Active Archive and on the RDX® removable cartridges. The hardware enforced WORM on the cartridges ensures that the data cannot be altered or deleted until the retention period has expired. Additionally, a hash algorithm is performed on the data to product a unique Content Address that is used to verify that no data has been changed during any transmission or storage operation.
Media Protection – Encryption	Media that is removable must be encrypted to be considered protected. ProStor InfiniVault encrypts all PHI that is stored on cartridges using an AES 256 algorithm. In addition, the ProStor InfiniVault manages all of the encryption keys ensuring security and eliminating the need to manage them separately.

Summary

Not complying with the HIPAA technical safeguards has led to significant civil and criminal penalties recently. The enforcement of HIPAA commenced in 2006 and is being used as a means to ensure that organizations such as hospitals, clinics, doctor's offices, etc. are complying with Department of Health and Human Services rules and laws.

ProStor InfiniVault provides a very simple means to meet all the legal requirements while providing significant economic benefits for archiving of data. The excuses of cost and complexity to meet the legal requirements cannot be used when a solution such as the ProStor InfiniVault is available.



ProStor InfiniVault® Product Family