

## ISSUE ALERTS



### HHS ISSUES REQUEST FOR INFORMATION SEEKING INPUT ON HIPAA IMPROVEMENTS

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On December 14, 2018, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (“HHS”) Office for Civil Rights (“OCR”) issued a request for information (“RFI”) seeking input from the healthcare industry on how to improve the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (“HIPAA”) regulations to meet HHS’ goal of promoting coordinated, value-based care.

The RFI seeks input on a broad range of potential reforms to the HIPAA regulations. Through a series of 54 questions, the RFI seeks comment on specific areas of the Privacy Rule, including:

- Encouraging information-sharing for treatment and care coordination;
- Facilitating parental involvement in care;
- Addressing the opioid crisis and mental illness;
- Accounting for disclosures of protected health information; and
- Changing the requirement for certain providers to make a good faith effort to obtain an acknowledgment of receipt of the Notice of Privacy Practices.

OCR Director Roger Severino stated: “We are looking for candid feedback about how the existing HIPAA regulations are working in the real world and how we can improve them.” This is an important opportunity for the healthcare industry to provide input on potential reforms to the HIPAA regulations. If implemented, these reforms could improve care coordination and better reflect technological innovation.

Public Comments on the RFI are due by February 12, 2019. The RFI can be downloaded at:  
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/12/14/2018-27162/request-for-information-on-modifying-hipaa-rules-to-improve-coordinated-care>

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## PRACTICE AREAS

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- Healthcare