



Washington's My Health My Data Act: Ensuring Robust Compliance in 2024

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Speakers



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Overview of the Washington My Health My Data Act (MHMDA)

Overview

- o Enacted on April 27, 2023 to safeguard the health data of Washington residents
- Extends beyond HIPAA, covering a broad range of consumer health data, including wearables and consumer locations

Scope and Coverage

- Applicable to any entity operating in Washington or catering to Washington consumers
- No minimum threshold for data subjects or revenue, meaning SMBs are likely required to comply

Comparison with HIPAA

- Expands privacy protections beyond traditional healthcare providers and insurance companies
- Defines health data broadly, including physical or mental health conditions, healthcare provision/payment, and consumer health data



Exploring business implications

Key challenges

- Understanding and adapting to the broad scope of the MHMDA
- Ensuring compliance for businesses of all sizes, including SMBs

Implications

- Compliance initiatives required to avoid enforcement actions and penalties
- o Importance of timely action for companies handling consumer health data in Washington State



Navigating compliance through data mapping

Role of data mapping

- Crucial for understanding data flow and classification
- o Provides visibility into covered health data, amidst other personal data collected by businesses

Challenges

- Identifying and classifying potential consumer health data accurately
- Ensuring data mapping reflects real-time data inventory for effective compliance measures

Best practices

- Implement automated data discovery tools for comprehensive mapping
- o Regularly update and review data mapping processes to adapt to changing data landscapes



Strategies for compliance

Robust consent mechanisms

- Obtain explicit consent from individuals before collecting, using, or sharing health data
- Ensure transparency and clarity in consent processes to meet MHMDA requirements

Detailed privacy policies

- Craft comprehensive privacy policies that explain categories, purposes, and sources of health data collected
- Policies should be easily accessible and prominently featured on company websites

Fulfilling consumer requests

- o Provide mechanisms for consumers to exercise their rights (data access, deletion, etc.)
- Implement modern privacy solutions for increased efficiency



Understanding enforcement measures

Insights into enforcement

- Civil penalties
- Class-action lawsuits
- Importance of compliance

Common pitfalls:

- Inadequate consent mechanisms
- Insufficient privacy policies

Common risks:

- Regulatory enforcement
- Class-action lawsuits
- Damage to consumer trust



Questions?



Thank you!

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