

History of HIPAA

August 21, 1996: Congress enacted the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA.) It required the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to propose standards protecting the privacy of individually identifiable health information by August 21, 1997.

September 11, 1997: The Secretary submitted a report to Congress recommending and urging comprehensive privacy legislation by August 21, 1999. If Congress failed to act by that date, the Secretary was directed to finalize regulations containing proposed standards relating to the electronic transfer of medical information by February 21, 2000.

August 21, 1999: Congress was unable to reach consensus on comprehensive privacy legislation. The Secretary of HHS took action to finalize regulations.

October 29, 1999: The Clinton Administration announced proposed rules.

November 3, 1999: Proposed privacy standards were published in the *Federal Register*.

January 3, 2000: Initial deadline for the 60-day comment period on proposed privacy standards ends. This deadline was extended to February 17, 2000.

August 17, 2000: Transaction and Code Sets Final Rule published.

December 20, 2000: The Secretary released the final regulations setting a compliance deadline of February 26, 2003. This deadline was later extended to April 14, 2003.

December 28, 2000: Privacy Final Rule published in the *Federal Register*.

July 6, 2001: HHS issued first guidance on privacy protections.

December 27, 2001: H.R. 3323, the Administrative Simplification Compliance Act (now known as Public Law 107-105), was signed into law by President Bush. It provided for a one-year extension for complying with the standard transactions and code set requirements.

March 27, 2002: Proposed changes to the privacy standards were published in the *Federal Register*.

October 16, 2002: Compliance deadline for Transaction and Code Sets unless request for extension and compliance plan filed with DHHS by October 15, 2002.

April 14, 2003: Compliance deadline for Privacy standards for all covered entities except small health plans.

October 16, 2003: Compliance deadline for Transaction and Code Sets.

April 14, 2004: Compliance deadline for Privacy standards for small health plans with less than \$5 million in annual receipts.