# Do You Know What Your Business Associates' Subcontractors & Vendors Are Doing With Your PHI & ePHI?

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This presentation and discussion is for Educational Purposes only

Should you desire advice on your specific situation, please seek the counsel of an advisor of your own choosing

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#### The Challenge

- This is an evolving area
- There is no "Play Book" only emerging, ad hoc approaches
- It takes time, resources, money, and management attention

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• The numbers are daunting

# Goal • Begin to Develop a Subcontractor / 4<sup>th</sup> Party Program That Is > Effective > Implementable > Thoughtful, Respectful, & Sensitive > Appropriate to Your Size & Risk > Affordable > Doesn't "Boil the Ocean"

Key Tools for Meeting the Challenge

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- 1. Your Contract with Your Business Associate
- 2. Your Business Associate / Third Party Risk Management Program

#### This Presentation

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Interactive

- Sharing Insights & Experiences
- Questions at Anytime
- A Few Exercises
- Discussion
- Some Handout Tools

#### Themes

- Having Something is Better Than Having Nothing
- Get Started Now
- Make Progress Everyday
- Document, Document, Document
- It's a Team Effort

>BA / Third Party Risk Management >Security – Info, Physical >Privacy >Legal Contracts

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#### Definitions

• Business Associate

 (A) "person (with respect to a covered entity) who: ... other than in the capacity of a member of the workforce of such covered entity... creates, receives, maintains, or transmits protected health information ... "or ...

 (p)rovides, other than in the capacity of a member of the workforce of (a) covered entity, legal, actuarial, accounting, consulting, data aggregation ... management, administrative, accreditation, or financial services to or for such covered entity, ... where the provision of the service involves the disclosure of protected health information"

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#### Definitions

Subcontractor

 A person or entity that "creates, receives, maintains, or transmits protected health information on behalf of (a) business associate."

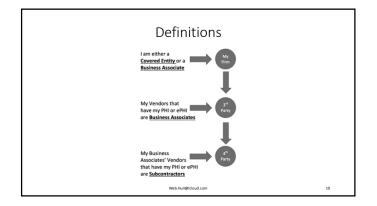
• A Subcontractor is also a Business Associate & subject to all the

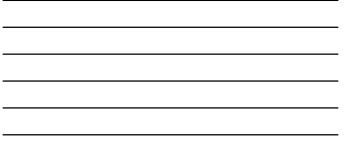
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requirements of a Business Associate

• 3<sup>rd</sup> Party = Your Business Associate

• 4th Party = Your Business Associate's Subcontractor





# Subcontractor / 4<sup>th</sup> Party Data Breach

- Multiple Choice Question If Your Subcontractor / 4<sup>th</sup> Party Breaches Your PHI or ePHI, Who's Got the Problem?
  - a) You
  - b) Your BA / 3<sup>rd</sup> party
  - c) Your Subcontractor / 4<sup>th</sup> party
  - d) All of the above
- Discussion Question What's the Nature / Implication / Consequences of the Problem?

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#### Why I Should Care What A 4<sup>th</sup> Party Does with My PHI & ePHI

- I Am Ultimately Responsible for My PHI & ePHI
- Breach Notification
- Confidentiality, Availability, & Integrity of Data
- My Reputation
- Costs to Me \$, Time, Regulators, ...
- Others?

#### BA & Subcontractor Requirements

• Business Associates ("BAs") and Subcontractors are required to comply with appropriate HIPAA / HITECH Rules

➢Security

➢Privacy

➢Breach

Have a Business Associate Agreement ("BAA") – OCR

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Template - <u>https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-</u> professionals/compliance-

enforcement/audit/batemplate/index.html

▶ Perform Risk Analysis

• Certain State Laws, Rules, & Regulations also apply

#### BA & Subcontractor Requirements

- Your requirements in regard to your BAs
   Included in "Risk Analysis"?

   > Have a BAA
- Your Requirements in regard to your Subcontractors ≻Included in "Risk Analysis"?
- Your BA's Subcontractor Requirements

➢Included in "Risk Analysis"?

 Have a BAA between the BA and the Subcontractor
 Flow your Business Associate Agreement requirements down to every Subcontractor

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#### Step 1 – My Business Associates

• How Many Business Associates Do I have?

- If I am a Covered Entity, I might already know this number because OCR asked for it in its Audit Request
- The OCR also requested Contact Names & Addresses
- If you don't already have this inventory, now's a good time to start it
- OCR Template Link
  - https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/complianceenforcement/audit/batemplate/index.html

#### Tool #1 – Contract with Business Associate

- Consult / Coordinate with Legal Contracts
- If it is not in a contract, it is very difficult to have the other party do it

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#### Tool #1 – Contract with Business Associate

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- Elements to consider
  - ➢Business Associate Agreement
  - ➢Other Agreements
    - Security
    - Data Protection
    - Privacy
    - Breach
  - ≻Subcontractor Requirements
  - ≻Flow Down Requirements

# Key Elements of a BA / 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Risk Assessment & Management Program? Executive Management Support & Reporting Policies & Procedures Adequate Resources – People, Budget, Tools, ...

Tool #2 – BA / 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Risk Assessment Program

- Adequate Resources People, Budget, Tools, ...
   Assessment / Reassessment Questionnaire, Certifications (ISO 27001, AUP, SOC2, ...), Evidence, Artifacts, Data Maps, Data Inventory, Subcontractors, ...
- ≻Auditing & Monitoring On-site & Desk
- ≻Exceptions & Remediation
- >Others

#### OCC Third Party Risk Bulletins

- Below are links to 2 OCC documents regarding  $3^{rd}$  and  $4^{th}$  Party Risk Management. The OCC is a major bank regulator & examiner
- These bulletins are relevant in that they address many issues that Healthcare professionals face in managing Business Associates & Subcontractors.
  - >OCC Bulletin 2013-29 "Third Party Relationships: Risk Management Guidance" - <u>https://www.occ.gov/newsissuances/bulletins/2013/bulletin-2013-29.html</u>
  - >OCC Bulletin 2017-7 "Third Party Relationships: Supplemental Examination Procedures" - <u>https://www.occ.gov/news-</u> issuances/bulletins/2017/bulletin-2017-7.html

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Elements to Consider in Contracts, Amendments, & BA / 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Risk Management Program

#### • This list is suggestive, not exhaustive

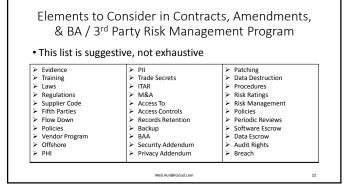
Staff	Transition Plan	Amendment
Funding	Changes	> Pricing
Cloud	> Agent	Resources
Security Rule	Shared Assessments	Translations
Privacy Rule	Medicare Part D	Who Pays
Omnibus Rule	Assessment	Record Keeping
Denied Persons	Reassessment	Insurance
OCC BULLETIN 2017-7	Crown Jewels	➤ Liability
Termination	Data Minimization	Prior Approval
Mission Creep	Minimum Necessary	Contract
> SLA	Monitoring	Return Of Data

#### Elements to Consider in Contracts, Amendments, & BA / 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Risk Management Program

#### • This list is suggestive, not exhaustive

<ul> <li>Data Ownership</li> </ul>	> AUP	Availability
Permitted Uses	ISO27001	Integrity
<ul> <li>Disclosure</li> </ul>	➤ SOC2	Resilience
<ul> <li>Encryption</li> </ul>	➤ HIPAA	Data Map
Background Checks	OCC Bulletin 2013-29	Data Inventory
Risk Rating	Log Monitoring	Disaster Recovery
InfoSec	Asset Management	Business Continuity
Physical Sec	Security Incidents	Certify
<ul> <li>Detection</li> </ul>	Pen Test	Attestation
NIST	Hotline	Certifications
PCI	Confidentiality	Artifacts



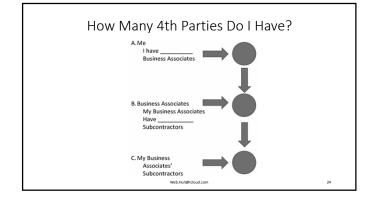


#### 4<sup>th</sup> Parties

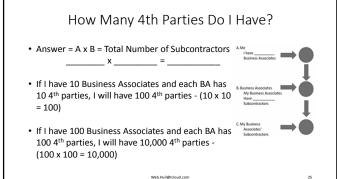
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- Do I already Assess & Audit My BA's ≻What is the Cost, Effort, & Success?
- Should I
  - Preapprove My Subcontractors?
  - ≻Assess / Reassess My Subcontractors?
  - ≻Audit My Subcontractors?







#### Subcontractor Challenges

• Preapprove / Reapprove Subcontractors

- ➤How Many Will You Have to Approve?
- What About the Legacy Subcontractors?
- ➤What Criteria Will You Use to Approve / Disapprove?

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≻What Will Your Turn Around Time Be?

- ➢What if you Approve a Subcontractor & Something Goes Wrong?
- ➤What if You Disapprove?

≻Others?

# The 4<sup>th</sup> Party's Challenge

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Some people recommend having the right to bypass the 3<sup>rd</sup> party and directly Assess and Audit the 4<sup>th</sup> party



# The 4<sup>th</sup> Party's Challenge

- Often the 4<sup>th</sup> Party's Customer has many Customers of its own. For example:
  - The 4<sup>th</sup> Party's Customer is a Software As a Service (SAaS) Vendor
  - The SAaS provider has 4,000 customers.
- What If the 4<sup>th</sup> Party Has 100 Customers & Each Customer Has 100 Customers?
  - >100 x 100 = 10,000 Assessment & Audit Requests

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# Your 4<sup>th</sup> Party Challenge

- How reasonable is it for you to Directly Assess / Reassess & Audit your Subcontractors?
  - ► Large Number of Subcontractors
  - ➤Large Effort & Cost
  - >No Direct Relation with Subcontractor Confidentiality, etc.
  - ➤Subcontractor Push Back
- Your Key Building Blocks Are Already in Place
   ▶Contract with BA
  - BA / 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Risk Management Program

### Building / Designing a 4<sup>th</sup> Party Program That's Right for You

• 4<sup>th</sup> Party Worksheet

Action	<u>Effectiveness</u>	<u>Cost</u>	Ease of Implementation
	High	Low	Easy
	Medium	Medium	Difficult
	Low	High	Very Difficult
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•	4 <sup>th</sup>	Party	Worksheet	

	Action	Effectiveness	<u>Cost</u>	Ease of Implementation			
		High	Low	Easy			
		Medium	Medium	Difficult			
		Low	High	Very Difficult			
≻Us	➢ Use it to define the building blocks that work for you						
≻In	>In light of limited resources, the goal is to get all Greens						

≻In light of limited resources, the ≻Go for the "Low Hanging Fruit"

>Do a lot of "Actions" – and then pick the winners

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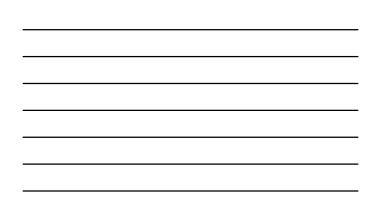
Building / Designing a 4 <sup>th</sup> Party Program That's Right for You					
• Example #1 - 4 <sup>th</sup> Party Worksheet					
Action	Effectiveness	<u>Cost</u>	Ease of Implementation		
	High	Low	Easy		
Assess Every 4th Party	Medium	Medium	Difficult		
	Low	High	Very Difficult		
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# Building / Designing a 4<sup>th</sup> Party Program That's Right for You

• Example #2 - 4<sup>th</sup> Party Worksheet

Action	Effectiveness	<u>Cost</u>	Ease of Implementation	
	High	Low	Easy	
Encryption	Medium	Medium	Difficult	
	Low	Low High		
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• My top "Building Blocks" - Yours might be different

- 1. Have Flow Downs to every 4<sup>th</sup> Party in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Contract
  - Consider having a 4<sup>th</sup> and Downstream Parties section in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Party contract
     This is a "One and Done" activity. Draft them once. Include
  - them in each 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Contract
  - Make sure that you can have access to all the documents, evidence, artifacts, people, facilities, and the like that you will need to do a complete job
  - Remember If it is not in the contract, you most likely will not be able to do it

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#### Building / Designing a 4<sup>th</sup> Party Program That's Right for You

Items to consider in the Flow Downs to every 4<sup>th</sup> Party

≻BAA

➢Data Protection Agreement

Security & Breach Notification Requirements

- ≻Right for you to Assess / Reassess & Audit 4<sup>th</sup> Party
- ➢Process for Amendment
- Confidentiality, Availability, Integrity, & Return of Data

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➤Termination

≻...

## Building / Designing a 4<sup>th</sup> Party Program That's Right for You

 My top "Building Blocks" – Yours might be different
 2. Get evidence in your 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Risk Assessment that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Party has a mature & robust 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Risk Management Program that it uses on all of its 3<sup>rd</sup> parties (your 4<sup>th</sup> Parties)

This is a "One & Done" update to your assessment tool

Areas to consider in updating your 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Risk Assessment tool regarding your 3<sup>rd</sup> Party's Risk Management Program that it uses on its 3<sup>rd</sup> parties (your 4<sup>th</sup> Parties)

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➢Policies & Procedures

- ≻Resources Staff, Budget, ...
- ➢Risk Assessments
- Supplier Code of Conduct

#### Building / Designing a 4<sup>th</sup> Party Program That's Right for You

Areas to consider in updating your 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Risk Assessment tool regarding your 3<sup>rd</sup> Party's Risk Management Program that it uses on its 3<sup>rd</sup> parties (your 4<sup>th</sup> Parties)

- Control & Process Assessments and Reassessments
  - Questionnaires, Evidence, Artifacts, 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Assessments & Certifications, ...

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- ➤Monitoring
- ≻Auditing
- ➢Exceptions
- ≻...

### Building / Designing a 4<sup>th</sup> Party Program That's Right for You

• My top "Building Blocks" – Yours might be different

3. When Auditing the  $3^{\rm rd}$  Party – either on site or a desk audit

- ➤Assess the 3<sup>rd</sup> Party's 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Risk Management Program➤Review BA Inventory / List
- Review BA Inventory / List
- Sample Contracts for Flow DownsSample Assessments / Reassessments
- Review "Exceptions"
- Sample Their Audits of Their 3rd Parties
- ➢ Evaluate Staff
- ≻...

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• My top "Building Blocks" – Yours might be different 4. Encryption!!!

Thank You!

# **Questions & Discussion**

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