

# etherFAX and HIPAA

**HIPAA-compliance is vital to the healthcare industry to ensure patient privacy. While there is no federal agency that can “certify” a solution as such, etherFAX adheres to the following published HIPAA guidelines:**

**Technical Safeguards — controlling access to computer systems and enabling covered entities to protect communications containing PHI transmitted electronically over open networks from being intercepted by anyone other than the intended recipient.**

- Information systems housing PHI must be protected from intrusion. When information flows over open networks, some form of encryption must be utilized. If closed systems/networks are utilized, existing access controls are considered sufficient and encryption is optional.
- Each covered entity is responsible for ensuring that the data within its systems has not been changed or erased in an unauthorized manner.
- Covered entities must also authenticate entities with which they communicate. Authentication consists of corroborating that an entity is who it claims to be. Examples of corroboration include: password systems, two or three-way handshakes, telephone call back, and token systems.
- Covered entities must make documentation of their HIPAA practices available to the government to determine compliance.
- In addition to policies and procedures and access records, information technology documentation should also include a written record of all configuration settings on the components of the network because these components are complex, configurable, and always changing.