

Sanction Policy

Introduction

STRATEQ HEALTH, INC. has adopted this Sanction Policy in order to recognize the requirement to comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act ("HIPAA"), as amended by the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health ("HITECH") Act of 2009 (Title XIII of division A and Title IV of division B of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act "ARRA") and the HIPAA Omnibus Final Rule (Effective Date: March 26, 2013).

STRATEQ HEALTH, INC. hereby acknowledges our duty and responsibility to protect the privacy and security of Individually Identifiable Health Information ("IIHI") generally, and Protected Health Information ("PHI") as defined in the HIPAA Regulations, under the regulations implementing HIPAA, other federal and state laws protecting the confidentiality of personal information, and under principles of general and professional ethics. We also acknowledge our duty and responsibility to support and facilitate the timely and unimpeded flow of health information for lawful and appropriate purposes.

Scope of Policy

This policy governs Workforce Sanctions and disciplinary actions for **STRATEQ HEALTH, INC.** All personnel of **STRATEQ HEALTH, INC.** must comply with this policy. Demonstrated competence in the requirements of this policy is an important part of the responsibilities of every member of the workforce.

Officers, agents, employees, Business Associates, contractors, affected vendors, temporary workers, and volunteers must read, understand, and comply with this policy in full and at all times.

Assumptions

- STRATEQ HEALTH, INC.** hereby recognizes its status as a Business Associate under the definitions contained in the HIPAA Regulations.
- STRATEQ HEALTH, INC.** must comply with HIPAA and the HIPAA implementing regulations pertaining to workforce-member sanctions, in accordance with the requirements at § 164.308(a)(1).
- Appropriate, fair and consistent sanctions have a deterrent influence on workforce transgressions; can help prevent breaches of individually identifiable health information and Protected Health Information, and can help prevent, or reduce the severity, of HIPAA violations.

Policy Statement

- It is the Policy of **STRATEQ HEALTH, INC.** to establish and implement appropriate, fair and consistent sanctions for workforce members who fail to follow established policies and procedures, or who commit various offenses.
- Sanctions applied shall be appropriate to the nature and severity of the error or offense, and shall consist of an escalating scale of sanctions, with less severe sanctions applied to less severe errors and offenses, and more severe sanctions applied to more severe errors and offenses.
- Certain offenses can invoke immediate termination, including, but not limited to:
 - Theft
 - Intentional lying or deception
 - Drug or alcohol use while on the job
 - Violence against persons or property
- Offenses involving obvious illegal activity may result in notifications to appropriate law enforcement authorities.
- It is the Policy of **STRATEQ HEALTH, INC.** to fully document all workforce sanctions and their dispositions, according to our Documentation Policy and HIPAA requirements.

Procedures

- Open case for investigation by Privacy Officer.
- Consult counsel for advice.
- Inform affected covered entities
- Determine appropriate sanctions and execute.

Compliance and Enforcement

All managers and supervisors are responsible for enforcing this policy. Employees who violate this policy are subject to discipline up to and including termination in accordance with **STRATEQ HEALTH, INC.**'s Sanction Policy.