

From: [Raines, Jill \(HSC\)](#)
To:

Subject: HIPAA Phishing Email Alert
Date: Thursday, December 01, 2016 7:23:42 AM

Good morning, Tier 1s/IT Representatives:

Please ensure that the departments you support are aware of the phishing email described below pertaining to OCR HIPAA audits and are advised to contact you or IT Security if they believe they have received it

If you have any questions, please contact me, Marty Walton, or Valerie Golden

Thank you for your assistance

Jill Raines

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Phishing Email Alert

Audits of Business Associates Are Underway

November 30, 2016

On November 28, 2016, the HHS Office for Civil Rights issued a listserv announcement warning covered entities and their business associates about a phishing email that disguises itself as an official communication from the Department. The email prompts recipients to click a link regarding possible inclusion in the HIPAA Privacy, Security, and Breach Rules Audit Program, and directs individuals to a non-governmental website, marketing a firm's cybersecurity services.

OCR would like to further share that this phishing email originates from the email address OSOCRAudit@hhs.gov and directs individuals to a URL at https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.hhs-2Dgov.us&d=CwIFaO&c=qRnEBByZajCb3ogDwk-HidsbrxD-31vTsTBEIa6TCC&e=Uwzi50RQ7KVJAW2DA3HmxgYBLc3wV3nwXD68IY8jsU&m=7YtXDwF9JN7OBk6NcRgdBktMEncLs_K1VhZLHhoYgI&s=dP0huffHN1JUhhb0j97O88-CWqfpui1uHXhHh7XX2B0&e=. This is a subtle difference from the official email address for our HIPAA audit program, OSOCRAudit@hhs.gov, but such subtlety is typical in phishing scams.

Covered entities and business associates should alert their employees of this issue and take note that official communications regarding the HIPAA audit program are sent to selected addressees from the email address OSOCRAudit@hhs.gov.