

January 18, 2013

## **Final Omnibus HIPAA Rule Issued by HHS**

On January 17, 2013, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued the long-awaited final omnibus HIPAA rule. The 563-page advance copy rule is comprised of four final rules which HHS has combined to “reduce the impact and number of times certain compliance activities need to be undertaken by the regulated entities.” The rule will be published in the Federal Register on January 25, 2013.

The majority of the rule is based on statutory changes from the [HITECH Act of 2009](#).

In the press release accompanying the rule, HHS Office of Civil Rights Director Leon Rodriguez stated, “This final omnibus rule marks the most sweeping changes to the HIPAA Privacy and Security Rules since they were first implemented.”

While the rule is effective on March 26, 2013, covered entities and their business associates must comply with the applicable requirements by September 23, 2013. We will release a detailed analysis of the rule shortly.

The HHS press release and the rule are accessible on the [HHS HIPAA website](#).

*This eAlert was prepared by Chris Bennington (513) 870-6572 or [cbennington@incomplianceconsulting.com](mailto:cbennington@incomplianceconsulting.com). Please contact any INCompliance consultant for more information at [info@incomplianceconsulting.com](mailto:info@incomplianceconsulting.com).*