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## **HHS Announces Second Round of HIPAA Audits**

During a presentation at the Health Care Compliance Association Compliance Institute in San Diego Monday, Linda Sanches, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) senior advisor of health information privacy, stated that the second round of HIPAA audits are scheduled to begin this fall.

According to Sanches, HHS has already created a pool of covered entities eligible for the second round of audits. It will send screening pre-surveys to selected entities this summer to confirm entity size and type. HHS will then select 550-800 entities from that group for audits. This is a significant increase over the first round of audits, which included 115 covered entities. Entities selected for the second round of audits will receive data requests from HHS in the fall. Like the first round of audits, the second round will include both on-site and desk audits.

Sanches further stated that, as part of the data requests, covered entities will be required to identify their business associates. A second wave of audits will include business associates identified by the covered entities. Sanches did not indicate when this second wave would begin and noted that the screening pre-survey and audit launch dates are subject to change.

With HHS audits coming this year, covered entities should take this opportunity to reevaluate their compliance with the HIPAA Privacy and Security Rules. INCompliance provides a variety of audits that allow covered entities to gauge their compliance before HHS arrives at the door.

Are you INCompliance?

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