

## Health Information Compliance Alert

### Reader Question: Do We Really Need Both Anti-Virus And Anti-Malware Software?

**Question:** Does our practice need to have both antivirus and anti-malware software? What's the difference between the two?

**Answer:** Yes, you need both anti-virus and anti-malware software, said **Mary Beth Gettins** of **Gettins' Law LLC** in a Feb. 4 blog posting.

"Look at anti-virus software as a multi-vitamin and antimalware as a vitamin C booster," Gettins noted. "In the world of computers, there is always a flu and cold season, so a boost of vitamin C from anti-malware software is always essential."

An important part of HIPAA security compliance is protecting your computers and other devices against viruses and malware, Gettins stressed. A virus is a type of malware.

**Beware:** "Viruses and all other types of malware can replicate, spread automatically, and compromise and harm your computer," Gettins warned. "In addition to viruses, malware include trojans, spyware, adwords, worms, and many others."

**Best bet:** Luckily, anti-virus and anti-malware software is readily available and usually inexpensive. Available anti-virus software includes **Norton Anti-Virus, AVG, McAfee**, and **Avast**. **Malware Bytes, Spybot**, and **Hijack This** are some anti-malware software on the marketplace.