

Health Information Compliance Alert

Security: FINAL SECURITY RULE EXPECTED SOON

The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** expects to release its long-awaited Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act security rule in final form by August, according to the **Department of Health and Human Services'** latest semiannual regulatory agenda.

The agenda "an inventory of all rulemakings that will be under development or review" over then next year is designed to give the public a heads up on which rules federal agencies are working on.

Other HIPAA matters on CMS' roster include:

1. the notice of proposed rulemaking on a national standard for identifiers of health plans (target date: August);
2. the NPRM on claims attachment standards (expected in August);
3. the proposed modification to the transaction standard that would adopt a National Council for Retail Prescription Drug Programs standard for batched retail pharmacy transactions (planned for release in June); and
4. the final rule on a national standard employer identifier (expected in June).

HHS hasn't yet set a date for finalizing its recent modifications to the HIPAA privacy rule, though many observers expect a final rule by October.