

**Healthcare Program/Policy Evaluation Analysis Template**

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Use this document to complete the Module 5 Assessment *Assessing a Healthcare Program/Policy Evaluation*

<b>Healthcare Program/Policy Evaluation</b>	The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA)
<b>Description</b>	

	<p>The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) is a US federal law signed in to law in 1996 by the then US President Bill Clinton. It is enforced by The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The law prohibits the unconsented use and disclosure of patient health information by care providers and entities, therefore giving patients the rights to control how their health information is used. It ensures that patients' information is used responsibly in consultations and studies to promote high-quality health care (De Simone, 2019).The law also requires healthcare facilities to protect the confidentiality of patients in all individually identifiable health information during storage and transmission. In that regards, the entities that handle patient data are required to protect it from unauthorized access and employ electronic protection measures. The act also protects all workers across the US against loss of health insurance coverage upon loss of employment. It prohibits insurance companies from denying citizens access to health insurance based on preexisting conditions.</p>
<p><b>How was the success of the program or policy measured?</b></p>	<p>The success of HIPAA is assessed at both the organizational and national level. It entails determining whether the target goals have been achieved. Its primary objectives include limiting unauthorized access</p>

	<p>and use of patient data and penalizing those in breach of the law. At the organizational level, success is measured based on the level of organizations compliance with the data protection provisions and whether institutions ensure that all workers are in a position to access healthcare insurance even upon termination of employment. It also entails the assessment of cases of a data breach at the organization level. At the national level, assessment involves evaluation of the number of organizations that have been reported and fined for non-compliance with the law.</p>
<p><b>How many people were reached by the program or policy</b></p>	<p>By the end of 2019, HIPAA had an impact on 231,968 US citizens (Edemekong &amp; Haydel, 2019). These are citizens that had reported complaints to HIPPA. Out of these, 99% of the cases had been resolved.</p>

<p><b>selected? How much of an impact was realized with the program or policy selected?</b></p>	<p>Consequently, the law had managed to achieve several positive outcomes across the US. In the year 2018, the law increased its efforts to catch the defaulters. HIPAA handled numerous cases of data breach and insurance defaulters, whose penalties amounted to approximately \$28.7 million by the end of the year. Consequently, there has been a significant reduction in cases of non-compliance to data protection, confidentiality and employee insurance regulations. More than 70% of healthcare organizations in the US have adopted electronic data systems and adopted the most advanced technologies to protect patient data. Additionally, cases of data breach have reduced by more than 50%. Patients are now willingly seeking healthcare as they are confident that their information is safe (Drolet, Marwaha, Hyatt, Blazar &amp; Lifchez, 2017).</p>
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<p><b>What data was used to conduct the program or policy evaluation?</b></p>	<p>Data used to assess the impact of the HIPAA policy include patient record, used to determine the increment in access to healthcare-associated with the policy and national data from the department of health on the number of organizations that have adopted information technology and data protection technology. Insurance record on the number of employees still receiving insurance benefits after dismissal and criminal records on organizations sued for HIPAA non-compliance are used (Aranguren, Magro &amp; Wilson, 2017).</p>
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<p><b>What specific information on unintended consequences was identified?</b></p>	<p>The evaluation revealed that despite the much benefits created by the policy, it has also resulted in unintended negative implications. The policy requires employers to continue providing health insurance coverage to employees even after termination of employment. This has led to a significant financial burden and losses by employers. The policy has also resulted in increased pressure on small business organizations that cannot afford to implement health information technology systems (Stans, 2017).</p>
<p><b>What organizations were identified in the evaluation of the program or policy?</b></p>	<p>Based on the policy evaluation, the major stakeholders in the implementation and success of ERISA are the organizational director and the administration and IT personnel in business facilities. Organizational directors are responsible for ensuring an employees continue receiving health insurance coverage even after termination of employment. The IT and administration personnel are responsible for electronic</p>

<p><b>Who would benefit most from the results and reporting of the program or policy evaluation? Be specific and provide examples.</b></p>	<p><b>change of patient data and installation of data protection software. The outcomes of the policy evaluation would be of the greatest benefit to patients, as they gain more confidence in the ability of healthcare systems to protect their data. It would also benefit employees, as it would reduce their fear of loss of health insurance coverage upon loss of employment. The federal government would also benefit from the evaluation because it helps decide measures to implement to promote the success of the policy.</b></p>
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<p><b>Did the program or policy meet the original intent and objectives? Why or why not?</b></p>	<p><b>Based on the findings from the evaluation, the policy has been successful in meeting its target behavior. It has resulted in a significant decrease in cases of a data breach, increased adoption of information technology and data protection technology in business facilities. It has also resulted adequate protection to workers by ensuring access to healthcare even after the loss of employment. Consequently, there is increased voluntary access to healthcare because patients feel safe (Thompson, 2019).</b></p>



<p><b>Would you recommend implementing this program or policy in</b></p>	<p><b>As a result of the significant benefits that HIPAA has achieved, I would recommend its implementation at the workplace. This will promote data security and efficiency in regards to quick access to data. It will also increase employee sense of security through guaranteed health insurance coverage after job termination. This will greatly impact on employee job morale and productivity.</b></p>

<p><b>your place of work?</b></p> <p><b>Why or why not?</b></p>	
<p><b>Identify at least two ways that you, as a nurse educator, could</b></p>	<p><b>As a nurse, I can be involved in policy evaluation through membership to a nursing organization. Working organizations engage in studies to evaluate the success of health policy, and use the findings to propose policy updates. Another method through which I can be involved in policy evaluation is through</b></p>

<p><b>became involved in evaluating a program or policy after one year of implementation.</b></p>	<p><b>Interviewing all the stakeholders in my practice organization, and evaluation of various systems and data sets, to assess for changes which are attributed to the policy. I can use the findings to propose policy review through writing a letter to a number of congress with interest in the healthcare field, requesting their order to sponsor the bill to the legislative house (Johnson &amp; Stuart, 2019).</b></p>
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<b>General</b>	<b>Since its inception, HIPAA has positively impacted the health sector and the US workforce greatly. It has</b>
<b>Notes/Comments</b>	<b>resulted in increased privacy and confidentiality of patients' medical records and ensured increased health insurance coverage for employees.</b>

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## **References**

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**Learning**

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