

New HIPAA Rule: Standards for Health Care Claims Attachments Transactions and Electronic Signatures

Healthcare Law Update

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On March 24, 2026, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) published a [final rule](#) in the Federal Register implementing certain administrative simplification requirements under HIPAA. In short summary, the final rule establishes for the first time HIPAA-adopted standards for health care claims attachments transactions—that is, submission of attachments to support claims (which historically have been sent by outdated methods such as fax or postal mail). The rule mandates the electronic exchange of clinical and administrative documentation to support the claims-related processes, replacing fax and other manual methods. The rule also adopts a standard for electronic signatures to be used in conjunction with health care claims attachments transactions. The final rule is effective May 26, 2026, and compliance is required by May 26, 2028.

The final rule adds definitions for the term “attachment information” (documentation that enables the health plan to make a decision about health care that is not included in a health care claims or equivalent encounter information transaction) and “electronic signature” (an electronic sound, symbol, or process, attached to, or logically associated with attachment information and executed by a person with the intent to sign the attachment information), and adopts specific standards for claims attachment-related transactions to enable the secure electronic exchange of documentation to support claims processing. The final rule also adopts standards for electronic signatures used in connection with health care claims attachments transactions in order to authenticate the identity of the sender and ensure the integrity and security of electronically-transmitted documentation.

[Click Here to read the entire May 2026 Healthcare Law Update now!](#)

If you need assistance with your HIPAA compliance program, an OCR investigation, or a data breach incident, please contact:
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