HID®

HID® ActivOne™ for Healthcare

HID Global ActivOne for Healthcare Enables Healthcare Organizations to Surpass HIPAA Password Requirements

Healthcare Organizations Stepping Up to Meet Cybersecurity Challenges

Just as physicians recommend early treatment to their patients, security-wise healthcare organizations are addressing the issues of cybersecurity early, before problems occur. In addition to providing excellent outcomes for patients, hospitals and clinics are stepping forward to raise the bar for security through end-to-end identity lifecycle management and advanced multifactor authentication.

The Challenge

Keeping Patient Healthcare Information Safe

Threats of terrorism and bioterrorism brought a new dimension to healthcare in the United States following 9/11, encouraging many health care centers to enhance their security systems and prevent unauthorized access to electronic Patient Healthcare Information (ePHI). Health care workers need freedom of access to IT systems, especially in situations requiring urgency, so putting one more barrier in front of them could become a huge problem. The goal is to provide ease of access, but at the same time, an increased level of security.

Naturally, healthcare workers create an open and welcoming atmosphere. But as we have painfully realized from past health record breaches, a system that is really good at taking care of people is one that is often easily hacked—mostly through stolen or misused passwords.

Under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is suing healthcare organizations for millions to settle potential violations as a way to encourage the implementation of robust corrective action plans.

According to HIPAA Privacy and Security Rules, access to ePHI must be provided only to authorized users, including affiliated physician office staff, and all healthcare providers under HIPAA are expected to implement reasonable security measures that are sufficient to reduce risk and vulnerabilities and ensure the confidentiality, integrity and availability of protected health records.

The Solution

Convenient, Integrated Compliance

In the context of administrative safeguards, the purpose of the HIPAA password requirements is to limit unnecessary or inappropriate access to ePHI. According to hipaajournal.com, "If an alternative security measure can be implemented that accomplishes the same purpose as creating, changing and safeguarding passwords, the Covered Entity is in compliance with HIPAA. Two-factor authentication fulfills this requirement perfectly."
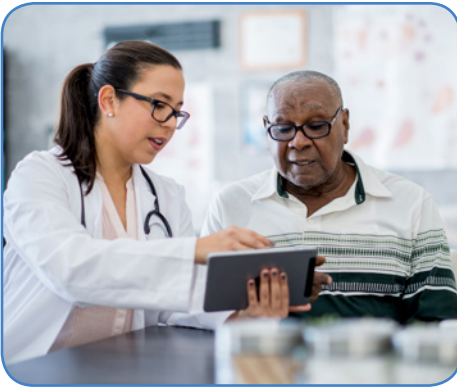
Since many hospitals and medical centers are already using HID physical access control products, standardizing on HID's ActivOne solution for multi-factor authentication and identity credential management using FIPS-certified Crescendo® ID smart badges is a natural fit. The solution is convenient for users, improves security and adds support for HIPAA compliance.

The Benefits

Secure, Efficient Access

Using HID's ActivOne solution for identity lifecycle management and advanced multi-factor authentication, hospitals and clinics are able to equip their employees with smart ID cards and/or virtual credentials on their phones that can be used for the following:

- Logical access to the hospital's corporate network and workstations
- Electronic prescriptions of controlled substances (specifically for clinicians)
- Physical access to buildings/rooms and cabinets
- Single sign-on (SSO) to the hospital's EMR system and all cloud-based applications
- Email digital signatures and encryption
- Derived credentials
- Certificate-based authentication

These capabilities deliver a variety of benefits that hospitals and medical centers value, including:

- Higher security
- Compliance with HIPPA
- Cost savings
- Convenience and peace of mind for healthcare professionals and patients

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