

Healthcare Cybersecurity Checklist 2026

Protect Patient Data, Prevent Breaches & Stay Compliant

2026 Edition | Internal Use Only | HIPAA-Aligned

1. STAFF & HUMAN PROTECTION

- Team trained on phishing & cyber threats
- Regular phishing simulation tests
- Strong password policies enforced
- No sensitive access on personal/unsecured devices

2. ACCESS CONTROL

- Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) enabled
- Role-based access control implemented
- Immediate access removal for ex-employees
- Regular access audits

3: EMAIL SECURITY

- Advanced spam & phishing filters active
- External email warnings enabled
- Sensitive emails encrypt
- Monitoring for BEC (Business Email Compromise)

4: DATA PROTECTION

- Patient & billing data encrypted
- Daily backups configured
- Backups stored securely (cloud/offsite)
- Backup restoration tested

5: SYSTEM SECURITY

- Systems updated regularly (patching)
- Firewalls & endpoint protection active
- Secure VPN for remote access
- Network monitoring in place

6: COMPLIANCE & RISK

- HIPAA risk assessments conducted
- Compliance policies documented
- Security officer assigned
- Quarterly security audits performed

7: VENDOR SECURITY

- Vendors vetted for compliance
- Business Associate Agreements signed
- Limited system access for third parties
- Vendor risk reviewed regularly

8: INCIDENT RESPONSE

- Incident response plan created
- Team knows roles during a breach
- Real-time alerts configured
- Mock drills conducted

QUICK SECURITY SCORE

Give yourself 1 point per YES

0-3

HIGH RISK

Immediate action required

5-6

MODERATE RISK

Significant gaps remain

7-8

STRONG SECURITY

Keep up quarterly audits