



HIPAA Risk Assessment Quality Checklist

“Would This Hold Up Under OCR Review?”

Governance & Documentation

- ☐ Risk assessment is **written, dated, and approved**
 - ☐ Methodology is clearly defined and repeatable
 - ☐ Evidence retained for 6+ years
 - ☐ Updated after major IT, vendor, or operational changes [\[hhs.gov\]](https://www.hhs.gov), [\[feldesman.com\]](https://www.feldesman.com)
-

Scope & ePHI Coverage

- ☐ All systems creating, receiving, storing, or transmitting ePHI included
 - ☐ Email, access control, storage, backups, cloud platforms, endpoints explicitly covered
 - ☐ Current technology asset inventory exists
 - ☐ Network/data flow mapping documented [\[hhs.gov\]](https://www.hhs.gov), [\[afslaw.com\]](https://www.afslaw.com)
-

Threat & Vulnerability Identification

- ☐ Ransomware, phishing, access misuse, and misconfiguration assessed
 - ☐ Administrative and process risks included
 - ☐ Cloud and remote-access risks identified [\[govinfosecurity.com\]](https://www.govinfosecurity.com), [\[sequoia.com\]](https://www.sequoia.com)
-

Risk Scoring & Prioritization

- ☐ Likelihood and impact defined for each risk
 - ☐ Scoring logic documented
 - ☐ High-risk items clearly identifiable [\[hhs.gov\]](https://www.hhs.gov)
-



Risk Management & Follow-Through

- ☐ Remediation plans documented
 - ☐ Risk register maintained
 - ☐ Owners and timelines assigned
 - ☐ Evidence of progress or resolution maintained [hipaajournal.com]
-

Continuous Monitoring

- ☐ Triggers defined for reassessment
 - ☐ Monitoring for access, configuration, and security events
 - ☐ Evidence of interim updates between annual reviews [sequoia.com], [hhs.gov]
-

Vendor & Business Associate Risk

- ☐ Vendors handling ePHI included
 - ☐ Risk-based tiering applied
 - ☐ Security expectations documented beyond BAAs [changeflow.com], [nixonpeabody.com]
-

See next page for scoring



HIPAA Risk Assessment Maturity Score

Count how many boxes are checked. Each check equals one point.

Green – Defensible (21-25 points)

- Asset-based, documented, current
 - Risks scored and actively managed
 - Continuous monitoring in place
 - Vendor risk included
- Likely to withstand OCR review [[hhs.gov](https://www.hhs.gov)]
-

Yellow – Partially Defensible (15-20 points)

- Annual assessment exists but lacks depth
 - Limited monitoring between assessments
 - Risk remediation informal or inconsistent
 - Vendors minimally reviewed
- Often triggers OCR corrective action plans [[wilsonelser.com](https://www.wilsonelser.com)], [[afslaw.com](https://www.afslaw.com)]
-

Red – High Enforcement Risk (< 14 points)

- Risk assessment missing, outdated, or generic
 - No asset inventory or data flow mapping
 - Risks identified but not remediated
 - Vendors excluded entirely
- Consistently cited in OCR enforcement actions [[feldesman.com](https://www.feldesman.com)], [[govinfosecurity.com](https://www.govinfosecurity.com)]
-

**Contact Cenova Cyber for a 30-Minute
Executive Review of your results**

www.cenovacyber.com