



Xythos and HIPAA

The Health Insurance and Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) has two goals, portability and accountability. In IT terms, HIPAA imposes two important requirements:

- Any medical condition codes must follow the U.S. federal standards that HIPAA established. In addition, applications that manage unstructured data, such as document management systems, need to apply these medical condition codes to any content that describes medical conditions.
- Patient medical data must remain private; anyone who has access to this information—health care providers, insurance companies, and employers—must prevent the release of that information to unauthorized persons. At the same time, patients must have unrestricted access to their own medical information.

How Xythos Can Help

Those responsible for meeting the stringent requirements of HIPAA can immediately benefit from using Xythos' Basic Content Services (BCS) technology at both the application and platform level by:

Applying Correct Medical Codes to Documents

Xythos provides custom metadata features that let users place standard HIPAA codes on any document. This custom metadata can be seen when viewing the document, or when searching for all documents to which that code has been applied. In addition to medical codes, Xythos allows any number of custom metadata fields to be added to a document, including fields such as patient name or birth date.

Ensuring the Security of Patient Data

Xythos offers file-level security for all content types, helping to maintain tight control over which users have access and permissions within the same system. Xythos also provides auditing features that can track all activity associated with a document. This includes user IDs or IP addresses used to access information as well as date and time stamp logs allowing doctors and patients to see who has accessed specific records and at what time.

“Xythos allowed us to make key changes in our infrastructure which has helped us better respond to HIPAA requirements.”

Michael Halle, Ph.D.
Director of Technology Development, Surgical Planning Lab at Brigham and Women's Hospital



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To release information to another user, who does not have an account on the system, Xythos provides the ability to send secure links to a file or document. For example, when a doctor releases patient information to an insurance provider, instead of sending a risky email attachment, he can send a password protected link to the patient's file on Xythos.

Applying Consistent Condition Codes and Policies

The Xythos platform integrates with important components of an organization's IT infrastructure, such as the LDAP service. Xythos' Java-based APIs also make it easy to integrate with other enterprise applications, such as patient tracking systems, helping organizations to enforce consistent coding and policies.

Customer Example

Xythos is helping the Surgical Planning Lab at Brigham and Women's Hospital in a National Institute of Health project called the Biomedical Informatics Resource Network (BIRN). Targeted at establishing 'the big picture' that will someday cure diseases as pervasive as mental illness, BIRN looks at records of patients from hospitals and research centers in more than ten states in order to understand patterns of disease.

The BIRN initiative involves a consortium of research universities that will develop a high-speed multi-terabyte distributed database devoted to research and analysis in brain imaging. Xythos Enterprise Document Manager helps these participating researchers from different geographies and hospitals to manage and share critical documents.

Xythos also enables the Surgical Planning Lab to provide a secure environment for physicians, clinicians, researchers and colleagues to share medical research, software, and data in confidence, according to HIPAA regulations.

To learn more about how Xythos' products are used to help address compliance requirements, please visit www.xythos.com

**For more information please
call 1.888.4XYTHOS or visit
www.xythos.com**

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