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## **EHNAC Accreditation and Re-Accreditation Preparation Assistance and Pre-Audit Services**

Boundary Information Group (BIG) has been engaged as an independent accreditation facilitator and auditor for three healthcare EDI/clearinghouse organizations in order to prepare them for their EHNAC Accreditation, for either their initial or re-certification initiatives. All three applicants were successfully accredited on their first application submission with no significant conditions outstanding for further correction. The organizations engaging BIG in this capacity benefited in a number of ways including the following:

- Significantly reduced executive and staff time allocations needed to successfully achieve re-certification.
- Increased Management confidence that internal staff were spending their time and resources appropriately to most efficiently address the certification process
- BIG's independent auditing identified gaps that would have diminished the score in the EHNAC evaluation process. BIG recommended a pragmatic approach for addressing each gap.
- BIG auditors identified and supplied Federal Government published and other resource materials that applicants can use to document the organization's performance, per EHNAC requirements.
- Specific guidance to staff on how to develop written documentation of policies and procedures to satisfy the requirement of the EHNAC onsite observer and documentation review process.

BIG also developed and makes available to its clients a crosswalk between the HIPAA Security Rule and some of the EHNAC Security criteria providing a clearer explanation to client staff as to what was specifically required and requested to be documented by EHNAC.

Too often, staff who conducted the previous Accreditation application are no longer with the organization. Also, the EHNAC criteria have changed over-time significantly, AND the client's business operations have changed significantly (either because of acquisition, movement to a new data center, etc.). In conducting these audits, BIG views the client's activities from the perspective of an impartial outsider (as the EHNAC Commissioners and Onsite Reviewer views them) and not through the "rose colored glasses" of insiders who either may not understand the criteria well or have not updated their knowledge of the risk environment since the previous review. But, BIG is the client's defacto accreditation partner with a vested interest in guiding the client every step of the way to a successful conclusion. When gaps are found, BIG staff serve as "coaches" to assist the client staff in preparing the materials that will meet the criteria, and in those cases where there are significant challenging organizational issues, work closely with management to determine the best pragmatic approach for the organization, and document the justification for making significant changes.

BIG is the only national healthcare firm that has been engaged multiple times in this audit capacity by EHNAC applicants. We take pride in the fact that every one of our clients has been successful on their first application with our help, and because of the improved documentation and recognition of business practices internally, have passed with flying colors. One EHNAC Commissioner commented after reviewing a BIG assisted application after the decision had been communicated to the candidate that, "this was the best prepared EHNAC application that he had ever seen".