

Maintaining Compliance with EHRs

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Cloning

- ❑ “Individualized and specific” vs. cut/copy/paste/pull forward
- ❑ Auditor is impressed with the chart #1, but then chart #2 looks like chart #1; chart #3 looks like chart #1 and #2....
- ❑ You may want to turn cloning option off
- ❑ Incorporate and utilize open script boxes

Versioning

- ❑ Ability to convert historical medical records (pre ERH) to electronic files, and maintain format, readability, etc.
- ❑ Some EHRs do not accommodate versioning
- ❑ This could create a nightmare for auditing and litigation
- ❑ Beware of “limbo”

Firewalls

- ❑ HIPAA requirement – privacy and security of PHI
- ❑ EHR systems must have firewalls to prevent access to specific kinds of PHI (e.g., mental health records, HIV and AIDS treatment, Medicaid eligibility).
- ❑ General authentication (e.g., physicians (or other caregivers) are allowed access to the entire medical record)
- ❑ Finely tuned authentication (e.g., demands the treating psychiatrist before allowing access to the patient's psychotherapy notes).
- ❑ Hold EHR vendor accountable to deliver this specific authentication capability