

## The CSF Provides Additional Value for Healthcare Organizations

As the healthcare industry increases its adoption of technology and enhances its strategy for health information protection, organizations are looking to HITRUST for assistance in identifying resources to aid them in complying with HIPAA, HITECH, and the other security regulations encompassed in the HITRUST CSF.

HITRUST External Assessors are uniquely qualified to respond to this need. External Assessors are those organizations that have been approved by HITRUST for performing assessment services associated with the CSF, the de-facto framework for security and compliance that harmonizes the requirements of existing standards and regulations, including federal (HIPAA, HITECH), third party (PCI, COBIT) and government (NIST, FTC). External Assessors are critical to HITRUST's efforts to provide trained resources to healthcare organizations of varying size and complexity to assess compliance with security control requirements and document corrective action plans that align with the CSF.

## Advancing Information Security Through Assurance

With greater emphasis on the adoption of electronic health records (EHRs) and health information exchanges (HIEs), HITRUST is seeing an even greater need for healthcare organizations to understand the security controls they have implemented and their compliance status with multiple requirements. HITRUST developed the CSF Assurance Program to meet this need using the common requirements of the CSF enhanced with a streamlined process and standard tools for assessing security and reporting compliance. The CSF Assurance Program is fundamentally geared towards moving the healthcare industry forward with respect to security controls in aiding organizations HIEs to understand and implement information protection safeguards and meet legal and compliance requirements. This approach, aided by the efforts of an External Assessor, promotes the manageable implementation of the CSF while progressively increasing the ability for the healthcare industry to protect the confidentiality, integrity and availability of protected health and other sensitive information.

## HITRUST CSF Assurance Program

The HITRUST CSF Assurance Program delivers simplified compliance assessment and reporting for HIPAA, HITECH, state, and business associate requirements. Healthcare organizations and their business associates are able to streamline compliance processes and reduce costs by leveraging the HITRUST CSF and a standardized approach to assessments and reporting. The program includes the risk management oversight and assessment methodology governed by HITRUST and designed for the unique regulatory and business needs of the healthcare industry. External Assessors serve as a key component of the program to provide the assessment and remediation services.

To learn more, visit [www.HITRUSTalliance.net/csf-assurance](http://www.HITRUSTalliance.net/csf-assurance).

## Becoming an External Assessor

HITRUST requires an organization to meet certain criteria in order to become accredited as an External Assessor. Defining these requirements helps to ensure the competency of those involved in the certification process and consistency in the certification of assessment results across all organizations.

Requirements for an organization to become an External Assessor include:

- Completing the External Assessor Application and executing the HITRUST External Assessor Agreement
- Having policies defined and procedures implemented to ensure the integrity and ethics of an organization's employees.
- Committing individuals to support HITRUST services and become trained as HITRUST Practitioners.
- Maintaining expertise through participation in HITRUST and other healthcare or security committees.

A complete list of requirements and supporting documents can be found at [www.HITRUSTalliance.net/external-assessor-downloads/](http://www.HITRUSTalliance.net/external-assessor-downloads/).

## HITRUST Training for Practitioners

The HITRUST Training for Practitioners Course educates healthcare security professionals about information protection in the healthcare industry and utilizing the CSF to manage risks.

Course details include:

- Comprehensive 2.5-day class
- Participants eligible for up to 24 hours of CISSP CPE credit
- Instructor-led, classroom style course comprised of 4 modules
- Scheduled every other month, with on-site training available to organizations needing to train 15 or more

Attendees must pass the Practitioner Exam delivered on the final day of the course in order to become a Certified CSF Practitioner (CCSFP) and to perform CSF-related assessment, implementation, remediation and certification activities.

*To learn more about the course, visit [www.HITRUSTalliance.net/hitrust-academy](http://www.HITRUSTalliance.net/hitrust-academy).*

## Learn More

By providing the healthcare industry with a best practice-based, prescriptive information security framework that normalizes existing security requirements with a common approach for assessing and reporting, HITRUST and External Assessors are able to aid organizations in reducing the inefficiencies and complexities associated with managing security independently.

*To learn more about becoming an External Assessor, please call **855.HITRUST** or email [info@HITRUSTalliance.net](mailto:info@HITRUSTalliance.net).*

## About HITRUST

Founded in 2007, the Health Information Trust Alliance (HITRUST) was born out of the belief that information protection should be a core pillar of, rather than an obstacle to, the broad adoption of health information systems and exchanges. HITRUST - in collaboration with public and private healthcare technology, privacy and information security leaders - has championed programs instrumental in safeguarding health information systems and exchanges while ensuring consumer confidence in their use.

HITRUST programs include the establishment of a common risk and compliance management framework (CSF); an assessment and assurance methodology; educational and career development; advocacy and awareness; and a federally recognized cyber Information Sharing and Analysis Organization (ISAO) and supporting initiatives. Over 84 percent of hospitals and health plans, as well as many other healthcare organizations and business associates, use the CSF, making it the most widely adopted security framework in the industry.

*For more information, visit [www.HITRUSTalliance.net](http://www.HITRUSTalliance.net).*