Control and safeguard patient information

Protecting sensitive patient information has always been a priority in the health service, but increasing digitisation is changing the security landscape. Innovations like the single patient record are helping to deliver improved patient outcomes at lower cost through fast access to information and improved collaboration between medical staff. But service users and the general public need assurance that sensitive information won’t fall into the wrong hands.

Keeping patient data safe depends on closely managing how it is used and shared. Good information governance will reassure the public about data confidentiality, and underpin clinical and corporate governance.

With these aims in mind, the government has recently drawn up a list of standards for safeguarding patient information that are reflected in the NHS Information Governance (IG) Toolkit. Complying with these standards means your organisation is able to manage information risk, and protect sensitive patient information throughout its lifecycle.

As soon as the end of July this year, all major NHS organisations need to baseline their performance within the NHS IG Toolkit, identify areas for improvement and devise a plan to address the issues they find. RSA solutions can help you meet these pressing deadlines with easy-to-use tools and capabilities for protecting sensitive information in line with Toolkit standards.

Achieving compliance with the NHS IG Toolkit

By implementing RSA security solutions, you’ll simplify and speed up compliance with NHS IG Toolkit requirements. They’ll help you follow best practice processes for protecting patient information against loss or misuse, without compromising authorised access to it.

RSA’s policy enforcement delivers an identity-aware policy-based approach to securing data, enabling you to classify and discover sensitive data, enforce control, and report and audit to ensure compliance with policy.

RSA’s Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) solution provides comprehensive management of event logs from all your networked devices, intelligent reporting that gives you insight into patterns of user and device behaviour, and a full audit trail to meet your compliance obligations.

RSA solutions for NHS IG Toolkit compliance

Deploying policy enforcement and Secure Information and Event Management enables you to manage information risk to NHS IG Toolkit standards, and meet the deadlines for baselining your organisation’s performance. Combining the two solutions will streamline your processes and lower the costs associated with understanding security risk across information, identities and infrastructure.
RSA Data Loss Prevention Suite

To manage flows of patient information and assess risks in line with NHS IG Toolkit requirements, you need to be able to identify and locate sensitive data within your organisation — wherever it resides.

RSA delivers policy enforcement with their DLP Suite, which discovers sensitive data in your data centre, on the network, or at the end points (users’ computers and laptops); monitors it; and protects it from loss or misuse. It enables you to control sensitive data on end points by monitoring actions on it such as print or copy. Actions that violate your security policy are blocked or logged, to prevent loss or misuse.

RSA policy management, policy enforcement and data discovery also monitors and controls sensitive data leaving your network. While accurately discovering and analysing data in motion, specific data security controls are also applied — based on your policy and the nature of the threat — to lower the risk of sensitive data loss. Essentially, data security controls guard against violations of the UK Data Protection Act and breaches of policy, whether malicious or unintentional, set forth or managed by Caldicott Guardians and SIROs.

If a policy violation occurs, an incident-tracking workflow process will be initiated to log and monitor the data at risk, and an audit trail of incidents will be created with automatic alerts to stakeholders.

With RSA policy management, policy enforcement and data discovery you have an efficient and scalable solution for securing data that enables you to:

- Use centralised policy management to simplify deployment
- Gain insight into the risk status of sensitive data based on policies
- Control actions on and transmission of sensitive data in real time
- Understand the risk of data leaving your organisational perimeter

RSA enVision platform

RSA enVision delivers Security Information and Event Management. It collects and manages security logs and provides real-time alerts of any suspicious activity, to protect sensitive clinical and business data.

The NHS IG Toolkit requires reporting and management of information security events, so that unauthorised information access attempts or potential security breaches can be recorded and investigated. The logs generated by devices across your network are a valuable source of event information, but the sheer volume of information makes manual management almost impossible.

With the RSA enVision platform you get comprehensive log management capability that makes it easy for you to comply with the NHS IG Toolkit’s information security event requirements. This powerful platform collects and processes hundreds of thousands of data events each second from all the devices in your network, without filtering and without using agents that could cause network congestion. It provides efficient storage and lifecycle management of log data, and intuitive web-based management and analysis tools that provide enhanced visibility of activity right across your infrastructure.

If RSA enVision detects suspicious patterns of behaviour, it generates alerts in real-time so that you can take swift action. And to help you glean intelligence or forensics from the log data, over 1,100 reports are included that are designed to meet specific compliance requirements. These will directly assist Caldicott Guardians, to ensure that healthcare organisations satisfy the highest practical standards for handling patient information.

Analysts including Gartner agree that RSA enVision is one of the market-leading solutions for Security Information and Event Management. As one of the easiest to deploy solutions on the market, enVision can help you protect sensitive clinical and business data and swiftly achieve NHS IG Toolkit compliance through:

- Alerting against baseline anomalies
- Alerting on unusual privileged user activity
- Maintenance of the digital chain of custody, with unaltered log data for data retention and forensic requirements
- Automated compliance reports