HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) is a United States legislation that created new federal standards for the protection of medical information. The act requires medical facilities to adopt standards for the electronic transmission of health information, establishes standards for the protection of personal health information stored on electronic media, and gives patients greater control over their health information.

New York State Department of Health’s Office of Health Information Security and Privacy is responsible for ensuring compliance with HIPAA. They provide guidance and resources to help organizations understand and implement the requirements of HIPAA.

HIPAA does not apply to entities that are not covered by the act, such as educational institutions or military health care facilities. If an organization is covered by HIPAA, it is required to follow the standards set by the act to protect patient information.

The act contains provisions for enforcement, including the ability to impose civil and criminal penalties for violations of HIPAA.

The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) is responsible for enforcing HIPAA within the city. They conduct audits and investigations to ensure organizations are complying with HIPAA.

In summary, HIPAA is a complex and important law that has significant implications for organizations storing and transmitting medical information. Compliance with HIPAA is essential for protecting patient privacy and maintaining trust in the health care system.