

# Secure Practice Blueprint

*A Practical Cybersecurity Checklist for Healthcare Providers*



## Organizational Security

- ☐ Your EMR vendor holds ISO/IEC 27001:2022 (or equivalent) certification
- ☐ Regular security risk assessments are conducted
- ☐ Data protection policies are documented and reviewed annually
- ☐ All staff receive cybersecurity awareness training
- ☐ Data retention and secure disposal policies are defined and enforced for PHI (personal health information) and backups
- ☐ Internal audits are conducted annually to verify compliance with security policies and standards



## Technological Controls

- ☐ Automatic software updates are enabled
- ☐ Cloud storage follows verified security protocols
- ☐ Data encryption is applied in transit and at rest
- ☐ Audit logs are reviewed for suspicious activity
- ☐ An incident response plan defines roles, reporting procedures, and timelines for breach notifications (aligned with PHIPA requirements)
- ☐ A disaster recovery plan is in place and tested annually



## People & Access

- ☐ Strong multi-factor authentication (MFA) is in place
- ☐ User access follows a least privilege model
- ☐ Employee offboarding includes immediate access revocation
- ☐ Shared credentials are prohibited



## Physical Security

- ☐ Clinic computers and servers are physically secured
- ☐ Portable devices are encrypted and locked when unattended
- ☐ Backup systems are tested regularly



## Continuous Improvement

- ☐ Partner only with certified EMR vendors
- ☐ Review security policies with vendors yearly
- ☐ All third-party vendors handling PHI are vetted for compliance with ISO 27001 or equivalent standards
- ☐ Vendor contracts include confidentiality and breach notification clauses
- ☐ Stay informed through cybersecurity advisories and updates from [Canadian Centre for Cyber Security](#)