

# 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](#)