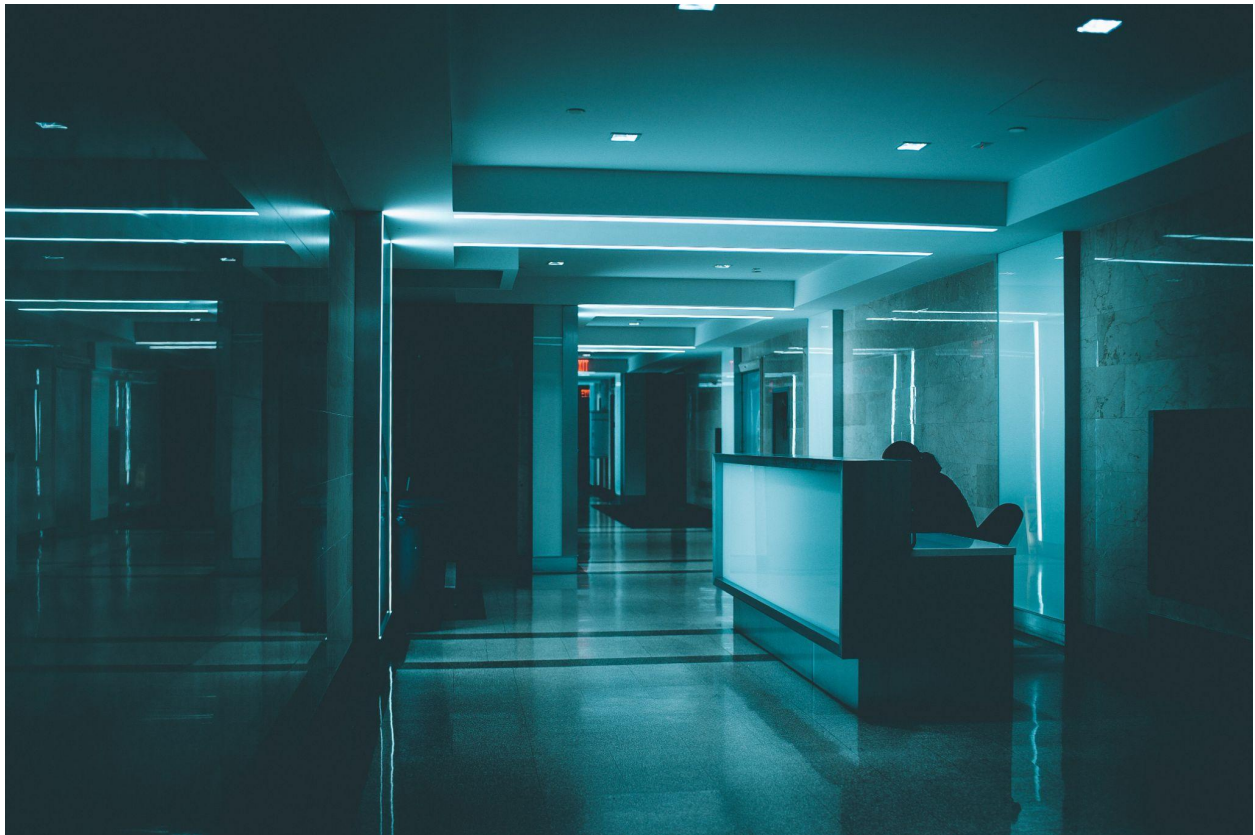


# The HIPAA-Cratic Oath: How Axon Body 3 Keeps Hospitals Secure While Maintaining Privacy

Experts break down how Axon Body 3 gives hospital security officers an effective, HIPAA-compliant evidence recording system



Federal HIPAA requirements are one of the primary challenges hospital security needs to consider when developing a security strategy. Improper handling of patient information can result in fines ranging from hundreds to millions of dollars, making it paramount that healthcare security professionals know how evidence — including video recordings — is meant to be handled. The potential downside is strong enough that some hospital security directors err on the side of caution and decide against using body-worn cameras (BWC) altogether to avoid potential legal issues. However, HIPAA-compliant BWC solutions can be a budget-friendly option for recording, and are similar to video surveillance cameras as far as evidence handling goes.

Axon partnered with hospital security veterans Bryan Warren, the President of WarSec Security, and Bill Marcisz, the President & Chief Consultant of Strategic Security Management Consulting, to shed light on HIPAA and how Axon Body 3 with Evidence.com can help bolster security in a healthcare setting without raising any compliance issues.

## The state of BWC and HIPAA compliance in hospital security

Hospitals are understandably wary about the application of BWC in their halls; Non-compliance violations carry harsh penalties, ranging from [\\$100 - \\$1.9 million per incident](#). Patient privacy is of such high importance that even good-faith mistakes can come at a cost. HIPAA compliance guidelines use a [tiered structure](#) to determine the exact liabilities:

- **Tier 1:** An incident occurred, but not due to negligence.
- **Tier 2:** An incident occurred that the organization should have been aware of, but could not avoid.
- **Tier 3:** An incident occurred due to willful neglect, but the cause was addressed.
- **Tier 4:** An incident occurred due to willful neglect, and the cause was not addressed.

Recording people on-premises is nothing new. Warren says that many people incorrectly assume that recording body cam footage at all is a HIPAA violation, but BWCs are fundamentally the same as any CCTV cameras in a hospital — which naturally record the comings and goings of patients, staff, and visitors. The only real difference is mobility, as body cams travel through hospitals along with the wearer. But it's not how footage is gathered that matters.

“What a lot of folks don't understand is that the HIPAA violation isn't the recording of patient care; the HIPAA violation occurs when the video is played back,” Marcisz informs us. In other words, BWC footage is acceptable so long as it isn't shared. To ensure that the video evidence isn't mishandled, hospitals must approach recorded footage with a digital security mindset.

According to Warren, the industry is adapting to secure video evidence electronically, rather than on recordable media which then must be kept in a locked area. While electronic storage provides a more advanced way of securing patient information than analog record rooms, it's not infallible.

“You still need to worry about the physical security of someone getting into [a computer],” says Warren, “but I think the security focus has shifted much more to ensuring that things are protected from hacking or ransomware.”

Protecting digital data from hacking and ransomware can present another logistical hurdle — and an expensive one at that. The cost-effective solution is to find a partner to provide BWC while securing digital evidence. Axon Body 3 and Evidence.com together create one of the most effective options hospitals have for HIPAA-compliant storage.

## Axon Body 3 and Evidence.com

Workplace violence in hospitals on the rise, partly due to the strain caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Healthcare workers are taking the brunt of the abuse, being [five times more likely](#) to be the victim of workplace violence than other workers. To remedy the issue, it falls to hospitals to proactively upgrade their security measures. Axon Body 3 is a simple, effective way to start.

Amid the sharp rise in [workplace violence affecting the healthcare field](#), Axon Body 3 gives security officers a viable tool for quickly de-escalating situations. According to Warren, people change their behavior when they're being recorded. When the cameras are on, bad actors will be less likely to use "vulgarity, threats, or other behaviors that may be criminal in nature." A proactive approach to de-escalating workplace violence is one of the most effective preventative measures a hospital can take to ensure employees are safe.

Axon has spent years refining its BWC solutions, resulting in Body 3 and Evidence.com. Together, they're an accessible way for hospitals to address and prevent workplace violence. The mission has always been to create a secure, compliant platform for storing video evidence across sectors. According to both Marcisz and Warren, the mission has been accomplished.

"Axon has worked diligently to ensure that Evidence.com has access control mechanisms built in to restrict the data in various ways. User access and privilege is based upon a need-to-know basis," Warren says.

"Axon has done a very good job researching and developing their products based upon feedback that they get," Marcisz says. "They're a leader in the industry because they're not just looking at putting the product out there... They develop strategies for their clients to follow to maintain HIPAA compliance."

Further, Axon Body 3 is an accountability and peace of mind tool. Marcisz recounts a story about a complaint his security team received, accusing them of excessive use of force on an individual. But footage from the incident told a different story entirely. Security officers had been counseling the individual, who had just lost a family member. Without body cam footage, the hospital's reputation could have been damaged.

Axon Body 3's use cases are bolstered by its advanced hardware and feature suite. The BWC delivers 1080p video with reduced motion blur for crisp, intelligible footage. The camera can be activated wirelessly, allowing security officers to focus on the situation at hand without fumbling to hit a record button. Plus, it integrates with the Axon Network to work seamlessly with Evidence.com.

Evidence.com is an advanced, encrypted platform for managing sensitive video evidence. Videos are kept in a secure ecosystem with tools like AI-based redaction, so you rest easy from worrying about HIPAA violations caused by bad actors.

Concerns about potential HIPAA violations are valid in a rapidly evolving healthcare world, but BWC provides hospital security teams with a robust tool for de-escalation and accountability. As workplace violence rises in hospitals around the United States, security teams need every advantage they can get to stay ahead of the curve. Together, [Axon Body 3](#) and [Evidence.com](#) create a cost-effective and HIPAA-compliant solution, with the backing of some of the industry's finest security experts showing just how valuable they are. To learn more about how Axon can help your healthcare facility attain its security and goals while maintaining HIPAA compliance, [ask for a demo today](#).