

Report in Brief

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



Why OIG Did This Review

The OIG is required to report to Congress the results of annual independent evaluations of the information security programs of Medicare administrative contractors (MACs). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) contracted with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) to evaluate information security programs at the MACs, using a set of agreed-upon procedures (AUPs). This report fulfills that responsibility for fiscal year (FY) 2017.

Our objectives were to assess the scope and sufficiency of evaluations of CMS's MAC information security programs and to report the results of those evaluations.

How OIG Did This Review

We reviewed PwC's working papers to determine whether PwC sufficiently addressed all areas required by the AUPs. We also determined whether all security-related weaknesses were included in the PwC reports by comparing supporting documentation with the reports. We determined whether all gaps in the PwC reports were adequately supported by comparing the reports with the PwC working papers.

Review of Medicare Administrative Contractor Information Security Program Evaluations for Fiscal Year 2017

What OIG Found

PwC's evaluations of the contractor information security programs were adequate in scope and sufficiency. PwC reported a total of 109 gaps at the 8 MACs for FY 2017, which was 25 percent less than the number of gaps for the same 8 contractors in FY 2016. Deficiencies remained in eight of the nine Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 control areas that were tested, including six high- and medium-risk gaps repeated from the previous year. CMS should continue its oversight visits and ensure that the MACs remediate all gaps in order to improve the MACs' information technology security.

What OIG Recommends and CMS Comments

This report contains no recommendations. CMS had no comments on the draft report.