

FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF PREGNANCY MEDICAL CLINICS

The ultrasound machine is part of your cybersecurity program.

AAAHC v45 will ask your governing body to prove how patient information and clinical technology are governed. Your clinic has firewalls, Microsoft 365, password rules, and a contracted IT provider. That coverage stops at the exam room door.

WHAT WE KEEP FINDING

In clinics with every standard protection in place, we still find external hard drives attached to ultrasound machines and reachable across the office network. Those drives hold patient images, reports, and identifiers.

Access is rarely logged. Encryption is almost never verified. Staff commonly treat the drive as the backup, even though ransomware reaches it in the same pass that reaches the server.

The governance question your board should be able to answer: what information sits on each ultrasound machine, who can reach it, whether it is encrypted, how it is recovered after an outage, and how it is wiped before the machine goes out for service.

THE SECOND GAP: NO AI POLICY

Clinics that believe they use no artificial intelligence usually already do. It arrives inside Microsoft 365, email drafting, meeting transcription, scheduling software, patient messaging, website chat, and ultrasound software itself.

For that reason, a first AI policy begins with an inventory of what is already running rather than an assumption that nothing is.

WHERE AUSTIN-ZIERKE FITS

Clinical Technology Risk Review

- Ultrasound device and attached storage assessment
- ePHI data flow mapping
- Backup and recovery validation
- Remote vendor access review
- Device and media disposal controls
- Board level risk report

v45 AI and Clinical Risk Readiness Package

- Readiness assessment scored on the six AI principles
- AI governance policy set
- Tool intake, approval, and validation logs
- Human oversight procedure
- Ransomware and downtime drill
- Governing body education

Clinical Risk Monitor

- Quarterly risk register review
- Corrective action tracking
- Incident and near miss trending
- CLIA competency and quality control monitoring
- Annual tabletop exercise
- Reporting your board can act on

WHAT AAAHC HAS PROPOSED FOR V45

SIX AI PRINCIPLES UNDER REVIEW

- 1 Transparency and explainability
- 2 Validation and accuracy
- 3 Data security and privacy
- 4 Human oversight
- 5 Fitness for purpose
- 6 Fairness and bias mitigation

AAAHC opened public comment on the proposed v45 Standards March 4, 2026 and closed it April 2, 2026, and states the expectations are intended to be surveyable. The March 2026 *Triangle Times Today* assigns responsibility for AI oversight to the governing body rather than to the IT department.

Your window is open now. The v45 handbook was not yet published as of July 2026, and v44 was released August 18, 2025. Clinics that build evidence before publication will meet the survey with records already in hand.

Start with the twelve question self assessment.

Ask for a copy at the table, or request a consultation at austinzierke.com/consultation. There is no obligation, and if we are not the right fit we will say so and point you somewhere useful.
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