

Improving Healthcare Operations Through Internal Audit Evaluations



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A financial audit provides assurance about the financial standing and stability of your organization's financial reporting. It does not necessarily show how well day-to-day processes are producing results or whether those processes are efficient, resilient, and well controlled. That distinction matters in healthcare, where organizations must balance financial performance, operational efficiency, regulatory change, technology, and competing demands on clinical and leadership teams.

Dean Dorton works with healthcare providers nationwide to strengthen revenue cycle management and operations, navigate regulatory change, and help health systems and physicians optimize care delivery.

Internal audit and risk advisory services extend that insight by examining the processes, controls, and risks behind financial and operational results. This closer view can help healthcare organizations identify vulnerabilities, strengthen controls, improve efficiency, and build greater confidence in how their operations perform.

Why Look Beyond the Financial Statements?

Financial audits are retrospective by design: they provide assurance about financial information for a completed reporting period. Internal audit and risk advisory engagements serve a different purpose by evaluating the processes, controls, and risks that influence current performance and future resilience.

For healthcare organizations, that may mean asking:

- Are our internal controls working as effectively as they should?
- Are there opportunities to improve revenue cycle management or other core management functions?
- Are we prepared to navigate regulatory changes?
- Have we appropriately identified vulnerabilities through HIPAA and cybersecurity risk evaluations?
- Are we effectively leveraging data, analysis, and technology to drive performance?
- Do we have strong processes in place to address financial challenges and keep our financial operations efficient and compliant?
- Do leadership and clinical teams have the insight they need to make informed decisions while remaining focused on patient care and clinical outcomes?

Together, these questions reflect the financial, operational, regulatory, and technological challenges that Dean Dorton's healthcare team helps organizations address through advisory and outsourced services.

What a Targeted Internal Control Evaluation Can Deliver

A targeted internal audit and risk advisory engagement can evaluate a healthcare organization's key processes and identify opportunities to strengthen operations and controls.

Depending on the organization's needs, an engagement may include:

- Internal audit planning and execution, including operational, financial, and compliance audits
- Regulatory compliance testing, including HIPAA and other key regulatory requirements
- Risk assessments and enterprise risk management support to identify, prioritize, and monitor organizational risk
- Internal control design, evaluation, and testing to strengthen governance and reduce risk
- Data analytics and technology-enabled audit procedures to provide deeper insight and greater efficiency
- IT audit and cybersecurity risk assessments
- Fraud risk assessments, investigations, and prevention strategies
- Governance and compliance support
- Support for establishing or enhancing an internal audit function

These internal audit and risk advisory capabilities complement Dean Dorton's broader healthcare services, including enterprise-wide assessments, revenue cycle optimization, strategic financial planning, data analytics implementation, IT strategy, HIPAA, and cybersecurity risk evaluations. Together, these services can help healthcare organizations address interconnected risks and support long-term stability.

A Flexible Approach Aligned to Your Goals

Every healthcare organization is different. Internal audit support may focus on a specific business process or extend across the enterprise.

Dean Dorton can work alongside an existing team through a co-sourced engagement or provide a fully outsourced internal audit function. Support can also be delivered enterprise-wide or at the service-line level based on the organization's needs and goals.

The goal is not simply to identify areas for improvement. It is to provide practical insight that can help healthcare leaders strengthen financial and operational processes, navigate industry complexities, and position their organizations for long-term success and sustainable growth.

From Compliance to Confidence

A financial audit answers whether your numbers are accurate and consistent. An operational audit and risk advisory evaluation answers different, equally important questions:

- Are the processes behind the financial results effective, efficient, well controlled, and aligned with the organization's objectives?
- Has the organization identified its key risks and implemented effective strategies and controls to manage them?

A proactive approach can identify vulnerabilities before they develop into operational, financial, or compliance challenges.

Contact our healthcare team today to discuss how an internal audit and risk advisory evaluation can help your organization improve operations and achieve sustainable results.

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