

TOP 5 CYBER PATIENT SAFETY TIPS

Cyber-threats are becoming more and more widespread in the healthcare and public health sector and we must be vigilant and stay informed on the most current cyber threats. Take a look below for five tips that help mitigate the top five threats facing the healthcare industry and keep your patients safe:



1 | Email Phishing:

This is the most common way for bad actors to obtain access to your organization’s network and obtain patient data. Bad actors can sell your patient’s protected health information (PHI) online, which puts your patients at risk. Most cyber-attacks that have shut down care facilities have started with a phishing attack!

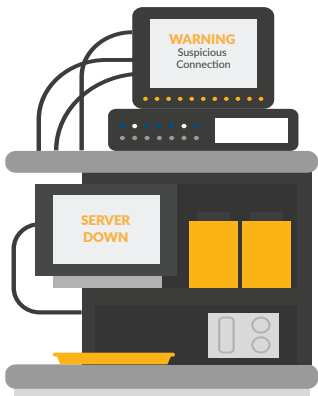
TIP: Files can be hooks; always check before you click embedded links!



2 | Ransomware:

Ransomware attacks have the potential to shut down care facilities, divert patients in need of care, or delete patient health records, all of which can put your patients in real danger.

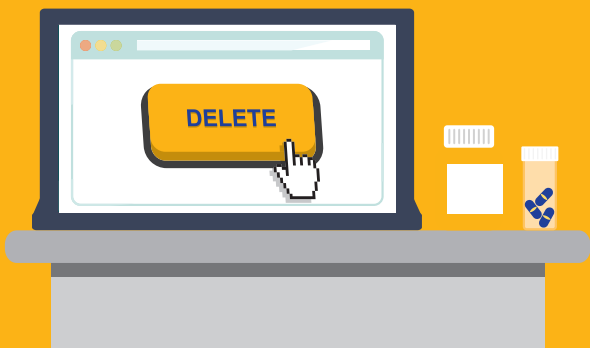
TIP: Bad actors use email phishing to unleash ransomware attacks, therefore always double check the sender and all links in an email before responding or clicking.



3 | Attacks on Connected Medical Devices:

Consider this: your organization is afflicted by a phishing attack that affects a file server that’s connected to multiple heart monitors. The attack gives the hacker complete control to power them off and on as they please.

TIP: To protect your patients, ask your IT professionals about your organizations’ policies on connected medical devices.



4 | Insider Intentional or Accidental Data Loss:

Insider threats exist within every organization where employees have access to the organization’s technology or databases.

TIP: Follow your instincts and always report an incident if you believe data has been mishandled or deleted.

5 | Loss or Theft of Equipment:

Did you know? Everyday devices such as laptops, smart phones, and USB drives are often lost or stolen and can end up in the hands of hackers.

TIP: Never leave your laptop unattended and be sure to report a loss or theft immediately to the appropriate department in your organization.

