

## DHHS RELEASES VOLUNTARY CYBERSECURITY PRACTICES FOR THE HEALTH INDUSTRY

In response to cybersecurity risks facing health care entities, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), posted on December 28, 2018, “Health Industry Cybersecurity Practices: Managing and Protecting Patients.” This four-volume publication provides actionable and practical guidance on cost-effective methods that health care organizations at various size and resource levels can use to reduce cybersecurity risks. It is the culmination of a two-year collaboration between DHHS and health industry and cybersecurity experts to develop voluntary guidelines aimed at reducing cybersecurity risks and ensuring the security and safety of patients.

DHHS’s publication is available at <https://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/planning/405d/Pages/hic-practices.aspx>. DHHS intends to regularly update this publication in order to keep the information on threats faced by the health care industry current and relevant.

There are currently four volumes included in the publication (summarized as follows):

### 1. **The Health Industry Cybersecurity Practices: Managing Threats and Protecting Patients**

This concise volume provides a general overview of the threat landscape and guides organizations to Technical Volume 1 or Technical Volume 2 based on a table of factors including organization type, size, IT capability, and cybersecurity funding.

Further, this volume describes the following threats including real-world example scenarios and impacts, and offers practical suggestions to combat each:

- E-mail Phishing Attacks
- Ransomware Attacks
- Loss or Theft of Equipment or Data
- Insider, Accidental or Intentional Data Loss
- Attacks Against Connected Medical Devices that may Affect Patient Safety

### 2. **Technical Volume 1– Cybersecurity Practices for Small Health Care Organizations**

This technical volume guides small healthcare organizations with limited IT and cybersecurity resources through appropriate considerations and best practices to mitigate the five threats described in the first volume. This volume is organized according to the following ten most effective cybersecurity practices:

- E-mail protection systems
- Endpoint protection systems
- Access management
- Data protection and loss prevention
- Asset management
- Network management
- Vulnerability management
- Incident response
- Medical device security
- Cybersecurity policies

3. **Technical Volume 2 –Cybersecurity Practices for Medium and Large Health Care Organizations**

This technical volume provides detailed mitigation strategies for medium and large healthcare organizations with a dedicated team of IT resources. This volume expands the ten cybersecurity practices to include 88 sub-practices, with detailed technical implementation recommendations for larger organizations.

4. **Resources and Templates**

The fourth volume contains the following additional resources, referenced in volumes 1-3:

- Glossary of Terms
- CSA Steering Committee Members
- Task Group Membership
- Practices and the NIST Cybersecurity Framework
- Practices Assessment, Roadmaps, and Toolkit
- Resources
- Templates

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Should you have any questions regarding these recommendations, please contact a member of our [Health Care Information and Technology Practice Group](#) or the [Garfunkel Wild attorney](#) with whom you regularly work.

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