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Mitigating Risk of Cybersecurity Breach

The American Hospital Association created a list of 12 questions about cybersecurity that every hospital should look at.

1. What are our most mission-critical, life support and care delivery systems, devices and networks? How vulnerable are they to cyberattacks? How are they protected and segmented from other networks?
2. Have we mapped all our internal and external network connections? Have we mapped our data and baselined network activity?
3. What is our current state technical and tactical cyber risk profile based on our latest risk assessments: policies, procedures and controls, vulnerability and penetration testing of our technical environment, cybersecurity maturity level of the organization based upon a recognized framework or chosen measures?
4. Do we prioritize all strategic threats, cybersecurity policies, procedures, controls and technical risks by impact to our reputation?
5. Does the organization have a vendor risk management program? Have we conducted a recent in-depth technical, legal, policy and procedural review of our vendor risk management program?
6. Based on our strategic and tactical risk profile, are we certain we have sufficient and capable human and technical resources along with a sufficient budget devoted to our cyber security program?
7. What is the cybersecurity culture of our organization?
8. What is our cyber risk mitigation strategy? Is it integrated into an overall multidisciplinary, enterprise risk-management program and governance structure?
9. What is our cyber risk mitigation strategy implementation road map? Are there specific program objectives, milestones and timeline?
10. How much cyber risk are we willing to accept? Do we have cyber insurance?
11. Do we have a unified cyber-incident response plan & is it up to date?
12. Has an independent and objective outside expert reviewed our cyber risk strategy?

Cybersecurity is a major risk for hospitals and serious thought should be placed into how to manage cyber risk. If you have any specific questions on Cybersecurity feel free to contact John Riggi the American Hospital Association Strategic Advisor for Cybersecurity and Risk at 202-626-2272 or by e-mail at jriggi@aha.org.

Additional information can be found at <https://www.aha.org/topics/cybersecurity>