

**[High Priority] - H0615 : [COVID-19] The Use of Loaned or Warehoused Devices during the COVID-19 Response Could Pose Security Risk [ECRI Exclusive Hazard Report]
Medical Device Hazard Report**

Published: Thursday, May 21, 2020

Geographic Regions: Worldwide

Suggested Distribution: Clinical/Biomedical Engineering, Risk Management/Continuous Quality Improvement, Information Technology

Problem:

1. Loaned or warehoused devices could have out-of-date firmware and may contain cybersecurity vulnerabilities.
2. Devices from unverified sources may be infected with malware from previous use.
3. The introduction of out-of-date or infected devices to hospital networks could cause the following:
 1. Alteration of data or system function within the networked environment.
 2. Loss of availability to devices or systems within the network environment, leading to delay in care.

ECRI Recommendations:

1. Conduct an acceptance inspection for any loaned device in accordance with facility policy.
2. When onboarding loaned equipment for the COVID-19 surge, treat devices as untrusted.
 1. Do not connect loaned devices to networks, unless it is required for them to function.
 2. If networked connection is required:
 1. Isolate these devices and allow only traffic as needed.
 2. Monitor the network traffic of the devices for anomalies.
 3. Follow established onboarding procedures.

Background:

1. While responding to COVID-19-related surges, facilities may source devices from alternative sources, which include:
 1. Government entities
 2. Outside facilities (loaned)
 3. Warehoused retired equipment
2. Devices from these sources may have out-of-date firmware or contain malware.

Comments:

- This alert is a living document and may be updated when ECRI receives additional information.

Source(s):

- 2020 May 21. ECRI researched report