

WEEK 7 DISCUSSION

TOPIC 1 DUE MARCH 16th [REDACTED]

Discuss a current news article on ransomware in the health care field. Share an example of how this can impact protected health information (PHI) and the requirements for privacy and confidentiality.

Unfortunately, the healthcare organization that I work for has been a victim of ransomware. In July of 2023, McLaren Health Care organization was a victim of ransomware. Being a part of the staff during this time was very crazy. The HCO itself was very hush, hush about the whole situation. Our internet connectivity and access to a lot of the electronic health records were locked out. Employees were not able to access patient files or documents in the electronic records. Services were limited at times. IT was able to access and fix certain items at a time, but it took approximately 2 weeks to get the full use of items up and running again. There was a lot of lost time with employees not being able to complete their duties. The most frustrating part was the staff were not kept up to date about any of the real reasons behind the technical issues. In end, the staff, patients, and public were notified that the breach occurred, and that some patient's PHI was impacted. McLaren did send out letters to those who were involved in the breach. They offered monitoring of those affected person information (Schubert Jonckheer & Kolbe LLP, 2023).

References

Schubert Jonckheer & Kolbe LLP. (2023, November 16). *Privacy ALERT: McLaren health care under investigation for data breach of 2.2 million patient records*. PR Newswire: press release distribution, targeting, monitoring, and marketing. <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/privacy-alert-mclaren-health-care-under-investigation-for-data-breach-of-2-2-million-patient-records-301991404.html>

TOPIC 2 DUE MARCH [REDACTED]