



Cybersecurity is a governance responsibility

Cybersecurity is not just an information technology issue — it is a governance responsibility

Healthcare trustees must now oversee cybersecurity (or “cyber resilience”) just as they oversee financial health and care quality. Trustees must ensure that healthcare leadership has developed and communicated strong defense and recovery plans, creating a culture of preparedness that protects patients, preserves public trust and sustains mission-driven care.

Did you know?

As of Oct. 2, hospitals and health systems are required to establish policies and procedures that are based on risk analysis, approved by the chief information security officer and reported to and approved by the board at least annually. Hospitals and health systems are required to report any material cybersecurity incident to DOH within 72 hours of discovery.

Trustees need to know what questions to ask leadership to ensure the necessary plans and precautions are in place

At HTNYS’ recent [Trustee Conference](#), James Purvis, chief information security officer for the University of Rochester, University of Rochester Medical Center and affiliates, described the board’s compliance role as creating accountability, understanding that compliance is a journey and familiarizing board members with the regulations. He suggested boards explore and act on the following:

- governance and oversight;
- risk assessment and management;
- policies and procedures;
- technical safeguards;
- monitoring and detection;
- incident response and reporting;
- workforce training and awareness;
- vendor and third-party management;
- business continuity and disaster recovery;
- compliance audits and external reviews;
- metrics and board reporting; and
- budget and resource allocation.

To learn more about what healthcare trustees should know and do to ensure their organizations are resilient, responsive and ready to protect their mission in the face of cyber threats, read [this new article](#) by AHA Trustee Services.

Wonder how your organization compares to other healthcare organizations?

Download the [2025 Healthcare Cybersecurity Benchmarking Study](#) report by Censinet, AHA, Health-ISAC and others. This report examines gaps around third-party risk management and asset management, and provides metrics regarding cybersecurity insurance premiums, IT and cybersecurity spending/staffing.

This October is the 22nd Cybersecurity Awareness Month

To honor this important initiative, ensure that cybersecurity is a priority and take decisive steps to protect your organization and others who depend on your services. This year's theme, [Building a Cyber Strong America](#), highlights the need to strengthen the country's infrastructure against cyber threats, ensuring resilience and security. We encourage all hospitals and health systems to raise awareness about the importance of cybersecurity. Engage in this year's efforts by creating your own campaign and use the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's [Cybersecurity Awareness Month toolkit](#) to access customizable tools and templates.

Information for this article was obtained from:

- [Cybersecurity as a Clinical and Governance Imperative](#), AHA Trustee Services, © Used with permission of the American Hospital Association.
- The changing cybersecurity landscape and the board's role in building a risk reduction strategy, HTNYS Trustee Conference presentation, Thomas Hallisey, director, digital health strategy, HANYS; James Purvis, associate vice president and chief information security officer, University of Rochester/UR Medicine, Sept. 12, 2025.
- [2025 Healthcare Cybersecurity Benchmarking Study](#), Censinet, KLAS Research, AHA, Health-ISAC, the Health Sector Coordinating Council and the Scottsdale Institute.
- [CISA Cybersecurity Awareness Month](#).

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