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Report on Patient Privacy Volume 20, Number 11. November 05, 2020 Agencies Warn of New Ransomware Targeting Health Care Organizations

By Jane Anderson

Health care organizations are the targets of an aggressive new ransomware campaign, and bad actors are seeking not only to lock up data and demand a ransom, but to steal it as well, three federal agencies warned.[1]

In a joint statement issued on Oct. 28, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), FBI and HHS said they have "credible information of an increased and imminent cybercrime threat to U.S. hospitals and health care providers."

The three agencies said they are sharing the information to provide a warning so that health care providers can take "timely and reasonable precautions to protect their networks from these threats."

CISA, FBI and HHS have assessed that malicious cyberactors are targeting the health care sector with TrickBot malware, which often leads to ransomware attacks, data theft and the disruption of health care services.

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