



FEBRUARY 2020

Alliant Management Professional & Cyber Solutions Client Alert

Recent reporting by online technology news site TechCrunch and digital health community The Mighty indicate that configuration issues in the widely used DICOM file format and Picture Archiving and Communications System ("PACS") used to store, transmit, and access radiology images could expose protected health information ("PHI"). The configuration issue is due to PACS servers being left exposed and are remotely accessible from the Internet without proper access controls.

The vulnerability discovered by Greenbone Networks could allow radiology images to be accessed and viewed with readily available software. Greenbone Networks was able to view personal data including:

- Patient name
- Date of birth and date of examination
- Social security number
- Type of imaging procedure
- Attending physician and/or clinic

Greenbone Networks has identified the following ports that allow remote access to PACS servers: 104, 2761, and 11112.

The existence of this vulnerability could create potential liability arising out of the HIPAA Security Rule provisions governing access control.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Have you been contacted by Greenbone Networks?
- Review PACS server configurations.
- Review server logs for potential unauthorized access.
- Contact your Alliant Management & Professional Liability Solutions broker to discuss what resources may be available under a Cyber liability insurance policy.

Who:

Healthcare providers who store, transmit, or access radiology images

What:

Technical vulnerability

Contacts

Brian Dunphy

Senior Vice President

212-504-1888

Brian.Dunphy@alliant.com

Matthew Raymer

First Vice President

713-470-4182

Matthew.Raymer@alliant.com

John Schuhriemen

Vice President

312-837-4731

John.Schuhriemen@alliant.com

Robert Horn

Vice President

212-504-5828

Robert.Horn@alliant.com

Cara Murray

Vice President

212-895-0257

CMurray@alliant.com

<https://techcrunch.com/2020/01/10/medical-images-exposed-pacs/>

<https://themighty.com/2020/01/unsecured-medical-image-data-threat-to-patients/>

https://www.greenbone.net/wp-content/uploads/Confidential-patient-data-freely-accessible-on-the-internet_20190918.pdf

§ 164.312 A covered entity must, in accordance with § 164.306: (a)(1) Standard: Access control. Implement technical policies and procedures for electronic information systems that maintain electronic protected health information to allow access only to those persons or software programs that have been granted access rights as specified in § 164.308(a)(4).