Hospitals Implementing Cybersecurity Measures

As hospitals increasingly use digital technology to gather, store and share patient information, they also must take steps to ensure data security. Results from the 2016 AHA Most Wired Survey show that the majority of hospitals are already taking many important security steps (see table below), while they continue to build out their capabilities.

Digital health will continue to evolve, and increasingly leverage secure connectivity for patients, physicians and other care providers. In response to both these technology shifts and the complex regulatory environment, best practices will continue to spread and change over time. Security is not just a technical issue, and many different steps need to be taken to ensure that hospital policies and staff training support information system security. Hospitals also must ready their response plans for those occasions when incidents arise.

Technical trends make clear that cybersecurity will be a growing issue for hospitals and their boards in the coming years. As a result, hospitals also will want to continue to build their capacity to keep information secure, identify threats and respond to incidents. The AHA has developed high-level resources for hospital leadership to help them navigate these issues, available at *www.aha.org/cybersecurity.*

Most Wired Survey Tracks Hospital Use of Important Cybersecurity Measures

Measure	Share of hospitals implementing measure:		
	More than 90%	More than 80%	More than 70%
Unique identification of system users	√		
Automatic logoff of system users	√		
Required use of strong passwords	√		
Passcodes for mobile devices	√		
Use of intrusion detection systems		√	
Encryption of wireless networks		√	
Encryption of laptops and/or workstations	√		
Encryption of removable storage media		√	
Encryption of mobile devices		√	
Mobile device data wiping		√	
At least annual risk analysis to identify compliance gaps and security vulnerabilities	√		
At least annual infrastructure security assessment	√		
Security incident event management			√

Note: The data presented are for all responding hospitals. For each measure, those recognized as Most Wired had higher levels of performance.

About Most Wired: The Most Wired survey is an annual benchmarking and recognition survey for hospital use of information systems. The 2016 Most Wired survey included data representing 2,146 hospitals, more than 34% percent of all U.S. hospitals. The survey is conducted by Hospitals and Health Networks, in cooperation with the AHA, and the next round will begin in January 2017. Learn more at *www.hhnmostwired.com.*