Medical Devices/ Pharma: Cybersecurity

Cyber security has been a high- profile topic in the news lately. Allegations of Russian involvement in leaking sensitive information during the presidential campaign has put the issue firmly in the public eye. This is also a topic that is growing in importance for the medical device industry.

Healthcare records represent an extremely attractive target for cyber criminals due to the various bits of sensitive information like social security numbers existing in one place. Given the value of this data, it is clear why healthcare breaches regularly account for over 40 percent of all IT security breaches on a yearly basis. More and more manufacturers are joining the collaborative care movement to have connectivity with their patients through an app-based format. This allows physicians to monitor patients regularly and make it convenient to develop a treatment regime without the need of numerous office visits. Developing nations and rural areas will benefit greatly from this; however, increased connectivity, increases vulnerability which leads to code errors in software, use of hard-coded passwords, disabling of firewalls, lack of authentication mechanisms, unencrypted communications, etc. It is not only healthcare records that are at stake but tampering with the actual devices themselves. Johnson and Johnson issued a warning this past year to users of the company's Animas One Touch Ping insulin pump of a possible security hole and the FDA has issued warnings for cardiac and network monitored devices.

The challenge for IT and security professionals working in healthcare is that they must improve data protection without impeding healthcare professionals' speedy access to potentially life-saving patient information or the capability of the devices themselves. Combined with the sheer size and complexity of many hospital IT environments, it's certainly a difficult task and one that is not going away anytime soon. Medical device companies are hiring cyber security professionals and enlisting the help of consulting companies. The healthcare cyber security market is projected to triple by 2021.

PinPoint Solutions

Current Highlighted Searches

- **Director of Product Marketing** - San Francisco CA - minimally invasive surgery device manufacturer

- **Sr. VP Sales & Marketing** - Phoenix AZ - vitamins and nutritional supplement manufacturer

- **Director of Marketing** - Indiana - Clinical diagnostic capital equipment and consumables manufacturer

- **VP Marketing** - Remote - Multi-billion dollar healthcare services company

- **Director of Regulatory Affairs** - Michigan - $500mm pharmaceutical manufacturer

- **Site Quality Manager** - Raleigh NC - $600mm medical imaging manufacturer

Meet the Team

Practice Area Director, Medical Devices/ Pharma– Mark Crist

Mark is the Managing Director of PinPoint Solutions and leads the contingency search division for the company. He has worked in the Executive Search industry since 1995. He spent the first 10 years of his career with the professional recruiting division of Spherion Corporation. Starting out as a Researcher he then progressed into Executive Recruitment and Account Management roles before eventually becoming the Managing Director for Spherion's Professional Services operation in Greenville, SC. Mark left Spherion after 10 years to join PinPoint Solutions in 2005 to develop the contingency recruiting capability of the firm. He now runs his own desk in addition to managing the contingency recruiting team. Mark has placed professionals from the individual contributor level up to senior vice president and he has worked across a wide variety of industries during his time in the recruiting industry. His primary focus now is to lead the company's effort to continue to develop and grow in the medical device, clinical diagnostic and pharmaceutical industries. You can reach Mark at Mark@pin-pointsolutions.com or via phone 864-271-2212 to discuss needs you may have.

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