

10 Questions to Identify Common Healthcare Website Vulnerabilities

Security is critical for healthcare organizations. Patients need to know their data is safe. Having a site with technical problems not only puts you at risk of a data breach, it also hurts your brand. Here are ten questions to ask yourself to evaluate if your site is at risk.

- 1. Are you able to see who has accessed user-submitted data that may contain PHI, when they accessed it, and any actions they took?** If you are unable to answer those questions, you need a better way of handling user data.
- 2. Is user-submitted data stored in an encrypted format?** If you can read the submitted form data directly in the database tables, it's not encrypted.
- 3. Are there credit card numbers or other card details stored in your system?** Online payment processors provide a reference code that is safe to store, so there is no reason to keep card information.
- 4. Are administrative passwords retrievable?** If an administrator can see users' passwords, or the system emails them to users, they are at risk.
- 5. Does your website use the latest version of your CMS software?** Upgrades and patches frequently contain security fixes that are needed to keep your site safe.
- 6. Do you have a process to ensure all the software that powers your website – from CMS software to database systems to the webserver itself – are kept up to date?** Website security requires a multi-layered approach. Any of these pieces could put the whole system at risk.
- 7. Are there additional security layers built into your hosting setup?** Beyond a basic firewall, you should look for things like intrusion detection and protection against common attacks like D/DoS and SQL injection.
- 8. How quickly will you know if your site is down?** 24/7 uptime monitoring ensures that you and your web partner will know within minutes if there is a problem accessing your site.
- 9. How quickly can you recover your site if it does go down?** If your website is run from a single web server, recovery can take longer. Redundant web servers and cloud-based solutions are the current best practice to prevent a single point of failure.
- 10. Will you be able to get in touch with your web partner around the clock?** Healthcare operates 24/7. That's why you need a partner that is always available.

Don't take chances with your patients' data or your brand – partner with an agency like Geonetric that takes security seriously. We'll take that extra monitoring off your I.T. team's plate and help ensure compliance with regulations.