Summary Post

While Corazon appears to follow the ACM and BCS’s codes of conduct for computing professionals, taking a second glance at the case study shows that the company could have gone further in their attempts to ensure the safety and wellbeing of their customers.

In this thread, Dominika argues that Corazon might not have properly addressed the risk the vulnerability in their heart health monitoring device. I agree with her. Even though Corazon did look at the vulnerability with the independent researcher, further investigation should have taken place to properly assess the risk the vulnerability posed. This is in line with principle 2.6 of the ACM, which states that computing professionals should “Perform work only in areas of competence” (Association of Computing Machinery, 2018.). I mentioned this in my peer response to Dominika as well, but I believe that Corazon might have been better off sending their device to an independent party that focuses on testing vulnerabilities in healthcare software and hardware. Testing software/hardware is not their area of competence, developing is. Allowing others to do this work would be in line with other areas of both the BCS and AMC codes of conduct as well, for example principle 1 from the BCS: “have due regard for public health, privacy, security, and wellbeing of others…” (British Computer Society, 2023). A malfunctioning heart health monitoring could jeopardize the life of an individual, so going above and beyond to ensure it works should be the bare minimum.

Overall, I learned that I should look a little bit closer to what a company could do to be even better, rather than be impressed by what they have already done. We can always improve upon our methodologies and our ethics, and it is always better to be critical than to be complacent.

References:

Association for Computing Machinery (N.D.) Case: Medical Implant Risk Analysis. Available at: <https://ethics.acm.org/code-of-ethics/using-the-code/case-malware-disruption/> [Accessed: 17 August 2024].

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British Computer Society (BCS), 2023. *BCS Code of Conduct*. Available at: <https://www.bcs.org/membership-and-registrations/become-a-member/bcs-code-of-conduct/> [Accessed 17 August 2024].