Hi Amit,

Thank you for the post, it was wonderful to view your thoughts on how healthcare industry has been a target of cyber criminals throughout. This allows me to raise an important point on how HIPAA is crucial to the healthcare industry.

Compliance is critical in the healthcare business to provide the highest possible protection of patient results. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) establishes a standard for the protection of personally identifiable health information. Businesses that handle PHI must have physical, network, and security safeguards in place and maintain their compliance in order to ensure compliance with HIPAA. Failure to comply may result in a hefty fine – even if no PHI violation occurs – while the violation itself may result in criminal or civil prosecution. HIPAA standards are divided into four sections: privacy law, security law, notification violation law, and omnibus legislation. It is noteworthy for organizations that a HIPAA breach or non-compliance can result in a punishment of up to $50,000 or more.

A striking example of healthcare cybersecurity negligence came to light when WannaCry attacked the United Kingdom's National Health Service (NHS). The investigation reports revealed discoveries such as how the attack disrupted at least 34% of England's hospitals, and even more so how the Department was informed about the dangers of cyber-attacks on the NHS a year before WannaCry, but did not respond appropriately with a written report until July 2017.

Amyas Morse, the head of the National Audit Office; quoted “The WannaCry cyber attack had potentially serious implications for the NHS and its ability to provide care to patients. It was a relatively unsophisticated attack and could have been prevented by the NHS following basic IT security best practice. There are more sophisticated cyber threats out there than WannaCry so the Department and the NHS need to get their act together to ensure the NHS is better protected against future attacks.”

**References**

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