Peer Response 2:

Collaborative Discussion 1: Codes of Ethics and Professional Conduct

In reply to Ben Zapka

Peer response

by Andrius Busilas - Monday, 3 February 2025, 4:08 PM

Hi Ben,

Thank you for your initial post on the case study: medical implants. Your analysis effectively underscores the positive and negative aspects of a medical technology firm's ethical computing strategy. Nevertheless, additional insight can be gained by drawing parallels with the ethical dilemmas encountered in autonomous vehicle development. Both industries involve critical systems in which design flaws can have dire consequences, thus requiring strict adherence to ethical principles.

ACM's first principle emphasizes the importance of human well-being (ACM, N.D.). Disregarding a known security vulnerability, even if considered low risk, reflects negatively on the organization's dedication to this principle. Moreover, the BCS Code of Conduct (2021) emphasizes the obligation to relevant authorities, implying that identified risks should be promptly communicated to regulatory bodies—a step the organization appears to have neglected. Active engagement with regulators and implementing best practices for risk management are essential for maintaining professional integrity.

From a legal perspective, failing to disclose such vulnerabilities could violate future HIPAA regulations that require real-time threat monitoring (Alder, 2025). This regulatory gap illustrates the changing landscape of cybersecurity laws, in which organizations are increasingly held responsible for proactive risk management. Legal consequences include monetary penalties, sanctions, and loss of certification, which affect the organization's reputation and financial health.

Societally, the organization's approach could undermine public confidence, not only in its products but also in the wider field of medical technology. Ethical shortcomings in critical industries often have far-reaching effects, reducing public trust in technological advancements that are intended to save lives. To address these risks, organizations must cultivate a culture of ethical responsibility, ongoing improvement, and open communication, ensuring that their practices align with legal requirements and societal expectations.

References

Alder (2025). New HIPAA Regulations in 2025. HIPAA Journal. Available at: https://www.hipaajournal.com/new-hipaa-regulations/ [Accessed 2 Feruary 2025].

ACM (N.D.) Case study: Abusive Workplace Behavior. Association for Computing Machinery. Available at: https://www.acm.org/code-of-ethics/case-studies/abusive-workplace-behavior [Accessed: 02 February 2025].

BCS (2022) Code of Conduct for BCS Members. BCS. Available from: https://www.bcs.org/media/2211/bcs-code-of-conduct.pdf [Accessed: 02 February 2025].