Date: August 30, 2016

To: CDC/NPCR Web Plus Users

From: Joseph D. Rogers, M.S.

Subject: CDC Web Plus Security Controls

To Whom It May Concern,

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funds state and territorial health agencies to collect data on cancer. These CDC cancer registries are known as the National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR). The CDC/NPCR continues to develop and activity maintains a suite of cancer registry applications to support the collection, transmission, and management of cancer data. These applications are collectively known Registry Plus. All Registry Plus applications are provided free of charge and are fully supported by CDC/NPCR.

Web Plus is one of the Registry Plus applications. Web Plus is a web-based application that collects cancer data securely over the public Internet. It is ideal for use by central cancer registries for all electronic reporting needs. Web Plus supports three main functions: online abstracting, file upload and download, and follow-back efforts. The online abstracting capability makes Web Plus ideal for reporting from physicians' offices and other low-volume reporting sources, while the file upload feature can be used for electronic submission of data from all other reporting sources to the central cancer registry.

Since Web Plus is the only Registry Plus application that can be accessed outside an organization's firewall, CDC/NPCR actively identifies and resolves security vulnerabilities. All HHS System Security Certification and Accreditation (C&A) National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) security controls have been addressed in Web Plus and the operating environment. To ensure the security of the data being collected and transmitted, Web Plus also addresses the Open Web Application Security Project (OWASP) security guidelines. Even with complete control over the development of Web Plus, it is not possible for the CDC to provide blanket certification and/or validation since so many of the NIST and OWASP security issues are under the control of the installing organizations while installing Web Plus within their unique IT environments

The Registry Plus development team created a Web Plus NIST controls checklist to outline how Web Plus specifically addresses each NIST security standard. This checklist has been used by numerous Web Plus users to provide security assurances in environments that require NIST security control standards to be fully implemented. These Web Plus users have included NPCR Security IT departments, local Veterans Health Administration (VHA) hospitals, and the Department of Defense (DoD) for Data Use Agreements (DUA) approvals. In addition to the NIST checklist, CDC/NPCR uses the IBM AppScan tool to address OWASP issues.

To obtain the Web Plus IBM AppScan vulnerability test results and the NIST control spreadsheet, or if you have Web Plus security-related questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,

Joseph D. Rogers (Joe), MS

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