



## Premier's Role in Medical Device Security

Premier contracts many different medical devices for our members across the nation. We are well aware of the security challenges that care providers are now faced with. Discussions on this topic have been conducted for many months within the walls of Premier and across every single contracting line of business. How is Premier addressing this with our members in mind?

**Internal and external education:** We have had ongoing internal discussions with any sourcing personnel that may have some involvement with medical devices and group contracting. Our product planning staff, contract negotiations personnel, legal counsel, information technology and supplier relations leaders have all been involved in educational sessions to ensure everyone is informed and aware of this issue and what is being done to address it. We have made all 16 of our formal sourcing committees aware that we are comprised of healthcare provider-based personnel—many of whom either secure, support or actually utilize the medical devices contracted through Premier. In June 2016, we plan to have a third party that specializes in medical devices and the associated technologies provide in-person education to all of our sourcing committees to promote further awareness and education.

**Product planning:** As part of the due diligence that Premier clinical and technical staff do when evaluating medical devices, we have developed a set of standard questions to ask suppliers of these devices and associated technologies. The goal is to help Premier and our committees ascertain what prospective companies are doing in terms of remediation of their devices as well as activities that are underway to ensure device security in the future.

**Contract negotiations:** New contractual language has been developed and is being included in our standard terms and conditions templates going forward. The specific language has been developed through collaborative efforts with Premier's I.T. Services Committee, the Strategic Advisory Committee, the professional services firm of KPMG and outside legal counsel, along with our own internal staff. The language has been developed to address issues specifically related to device security, malware and a supplier's commitment to making their product(s) as secure as possible.

**Contract awards:** Our member-staffed sourcing committees will be using information provided by suppliers during the planning phase, along with the contractual provisions agreed to when it comes to making contract awards. Committee personnel will use medical device security as a key criteria going forward when evaluating both products and companies to award contracts to.

**Contract launches:** When new contract awards are communicated to members through our contract launch process, we will be highlighting device security information for categories and suppliers where it is applicable. The goal is to make Premier members well aware of what activities a contracted supplier has taken to address security issues specific to their medical equipment.

*You can learn more about Premier's contract offerings and security solutions at [premierinc.com](http://premierinc.com).*