2026 Oregon Rural Health Conference Presentation Slides

A TABLETOP EXERCISE FOR RURAL HOSPITAL LEADERS

Cybersecurity at the Edge of the Safety Net

CIOs on Keeping Rural America Safe

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RULES OF PLAY

How the game works

3

Three scenarios

Ransomware, a social-engineered help desk, and a compromised AI vendor. One fictional critical access hospital. Each story branches on your choices.

A · B · C

Interactive

At every decision the room votes by show of hands. Majority wins. Then we see what happens to patient care, operations, and trust.

60s

Tight schedule

One minute per decision. When the clock hits zero, the leading choice stands. In a real incident, not deciding is a decision.

CAPE ALDER COMMUNITY HOSPITAL · 22 BEDS · FICTIONAL

Three incidents, one small hospital

01 · RANSOMWARE

Code Black at 2 A.M.

Ransomware locks every system in the middle of the night, with an ambulance on the way and the nearest ED 55 miles off.

02 · SOCIAL ENGINEERING

The Friendly Voice

Two weeks after outsourcing the help desk, a caller posing as the CFO asks for an MFA reset.

03 · THIRD-PARTY AI

The New Owner

A successful AI revenue cycle pilot is acquired. Despite assurances, the tool becomes the way in.

SCENARIO 01 · RANSOMWARE · STRATEGIES

Code Black at 2 A.M.

Isolate first, and pre-authorize it

Night staff can pull the network without calling anyone. Leave machines on to preserve evidence.

Practice downtime like a code

Quarterly paper downtime drills, printed downtime reports, and incident command clinicians can run.

Prove your backups

Immutable, isolated copies with full test restores and a known recovery time for each critical system.

Call the right people first

Cyber insurer, incident response retainer, counsel, and FBI on a printed card. Don't restore until the attacker is out.

Plan the ransom decision now

Agree on who decides, with what information, including a sanctions check, before you ever need to.

Communicate early and often

Staff first, then the community, on a predictable schedule. Silence and spin both cost trust.

SCENARIO 02 · SOCIAL ENGINEERING · STRATEGIES

The Friendly Voice

Verify identity out of band

Callback to a number on file and manager approval for privileged resets. Retire SSN and employee ID as proof.

Phishing-resistant MFA where it matters

Hardware keys or passkeys for executives, finance, and IT administrators first.

Contract for security, then check it

Verification standards, audit rights, 24-hour incident notice, and a current BAA in every outsourcing deal.

Lock down payment changes

Any bank detail change is confirmed by phone to a known contact, with two people signing off.

Watch for the signals

Alerts on MFA resets, new inbox rules, risky sign-ins, and new app consents.

Share what you see

Tell staff, the vendor, and Health-ISAC. One attempt usually means more.

SCENARIO 03 · THIRD-PARTY AI · STRATEGIES

The New Owner

Treat an acquisition as a new vendor

Contract for change-of-control notice, reassessment, and the right to terminate.

Give AI tools least privilege

Scoped APIs, minimum necessary data, short-lived keys, and no standing bulk access.

Know where your AI is

Inventory every AI tool and data flow through your AI governance council.

Monitor integrations like users

Alert on unusual volume, timing, and new data types from service accounts.

Keep a manual fallback

AI accelerates the revenue cycle. It can't be a single point of failure.

Own the breach response

You remain the covered entity. Require prompt notice and forensics in every BAA.

WHAT EVERY SCENARIO HAD IN COMMON

Three habits for Monday morning

Decide before the crisis

Who can pull the network, who decides on ransom, what the contract requires. Write it down now.

Verify, then trust

Callers, vendors, and new owners all earn access through a known channel, not a confident voice or letter.

Practice the fallback

Paper downtime, manual claims, a printed call list. Cybersecurity in a small hospital is patient safety.

Questions and discussion