

# Man Your Battle Stations: Feds Plan Cyber Security Hack Attacks

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Frantic instructions to “man your battle stations” is not a command civilians and health information management (HIM) professionals are accustomed to hearing. However, that could soon change as healthcare organizations heed numerous cyber security warnings and prepare for government-planned cyber attack simulations this spring.

A joint initiative called CyberRX, a collaborative project between the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Health Information Trust Alliance (HITRUST), is an industry-wide effort to help healthcare organizations prepare and respond to cyber security threats. To do this, CyberRX is planning a series of mock cyber security attacks to test healthcare stakeholders’ preparedness and response times in the event of a major privacy or security breach incident.

The simulated attacks will start in March and will be tested with companies such as Humana, CVS Caremark, Children’s Medical Center Dallas, and WellPoint, among others. The mock attacks will last two days and target information systems, medical devices, and other technology sources owned and operated by providers, health plans, prescription benefit managers, pharmaceutical companies, and HHS, according to an article by *Healthcare IT News*.

“I feel strongly that these exercises are needed as a crucial step in the healthcare industry’s continued maturity around cyber threat preparedness and response,” said WellPoint Vice President and Chief Information Security Officer Roy Mellinger in a statement.

The mock attacks come on the heels of a report from Experian predicting that healthcare privacy and security breaches will surge in 2014.

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