HEALTHCARE SECURITY RESOURCE

Essential Eight Starter Checklist for Healthcare Practices

A plain-English starting point for applying the ASD Essential Eight across clinical applications, endpoints, cloud services and vendor access.

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USE	Planning aid - not a compliance certification

How to use this resource

Work through each item with the people responsible for the process. Record evidence, an owner and a realistic due date for every gap. The online version provides related guidance and service links.

01 Prevent initial compromise

1 Application control

Define which applications, scripts and installers may run; begin with higher-risk systems.

Evidence / owner / due date: _____

2 Patch applications

Maintain inventory, prioritise exposed software and resolve deployment failures.

Evidence / owner / due date: _____

3 Configure Office macros

Block untrusted macros and restrict approved macro creation and use.

Evidence / owner / due date: _____

4 User application hardening

Reduce risky browser and document behaviour while testing clinical compatibility.

Evidence / owner / due date: _____

02 Limit the impact

1 Restrict administrative privileges

Use separate administrator accounts, minimise membership and review regularly.

Evidence / owner / due date: _____

2 Patch operating systems

Track supported versions, deploy updates promptly and isolate unsupported systems.

Evidence / owner / due date: _____

3 Multi-factor authentication

Enforce MFA for remote, privileged and important cloud access.

Evidence / owner / due date: _____

03 Recover and prove effectiveness

1 Regular backups

Protect the systems and data required to resume clinical and business operations.

Evidence / owner / due date: _____

2 Gather evidence

Collect configuration, reports, access reviews, alert handling and restoration results.

Evidence / owner / due date: _____

3 Test the working environment

Confirm controls across practice software, integrations, devices and vendors.

Evidence / owner / due date: _____

4 Choose a realistic target

Assess the current state, select a target and remediate gaps as a managed program.

Evidence / owner / due date: _____

IMPORTANT CONTEXT

This resource is informed by public ASD guidance but is not an ASD assessment, certification or maturity statement. Formal assessment requires evidence and testing against the current model.

Open the current online guide and related resources

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