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Health Records Put at Risk by Security Bugs

Health records of almost 100 million patients worldwide were put at risk by security issues with a popular patient management system, researchers say. Almost 30 bugs were found in the OpenEMR system, by a cyber-security group called Project Insecurity. OpenEMR is one of the world's most widely used patient and practice management systems. Cyber-security experts from Project Insecurity found various problems in its investigation of OpenEMR. Many of the bugs were labelled as "critical" and, if exploited, would have given attackers wide access to medical records. Some would have allowed attackers with limited credentials access to sensitive data. OpenEMR is used by many surgeries, hospitals and other health organizations to manage information and treatment for patients. It can also be used to manage scheduling and billing as well as practice administration. In the US, it is used to document sensitive medical information for more than 30 million people. Globally, the records of about 100 million people are believed to be held on OpenEMR.