

Threat Risk Assessment (TRA) Summary: Ocean eReferral Network

Updated – January 2021

Background:

eReferral refers to the automation of one or more activities involved in initiating, negotiating and closing the referral process, usually from a primary care physician to a specialist. The Ocean eReferral Network is a cloud-based technology that allows healthcare providers to search for specialists, view wait times and locations, and create a referral in real time. It is used by referring clinicians (“Referrers”) to send patient data (including personal health information) to “Referral Targets”, i.e. specialists or other health service providers to which the Referrer wishes to refer the patient for the further provision of care.

Purpose

Under Ontario Regulation 329/04 Personal Health Information Protection Act (PHIPA), a health information network provider (HINP) shall perform and provide a written copy of the results of an assessment of the services provided with respect to the threats, vulnerabilities and risks to the security and integrity of personal health information (PHI). This threat risk assessment is commonly known as a TRA.

The eHealth Centre of Excellence contracted an independent third party to complete a physical TRA for integrations between the Ocean Network and three other healthcare technology solutions: Excelicare, CHRIS and Caredove. The most recent of these TRAs was completed in May 2020.

Physical TRA Recommendations

The following is a summary of the recommendations implemented by the Ocean eReferral Network following the physical TRAs:

- A security & best practice review
- Automated intrusion detection system (IDS)
- Automated security information and event management (SIEM)
- Automated centralized tools for configuration and provisioning
- A table-top exercise of an established privacy/security incident process
- Evolved minimum connection standards

The following is a summary of the recommendations currently in the process of being implemented by the Ocean eReferral Network following the TRA:

- Additional malware detection
- Additional web application filtering and monitoring
- Updating the API end user license agreement (EULA)
- Updating the API with additional messaging context

- Static code analysis
- New PIA and TRA in 2021

The logical TRA for the Ocean eReferral Network can be viewed [here](#) .

If you have any questions or would like more information, email us at privacy@ehealthce.ca