

# Content of Premarket Submissions for Management of Cybersecurity in Medical Devices

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## Draft Guidance for Industry and Food and Drug Administration Staff

### ***DRAFT GUIDANCE***

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For questions about this document, contact Suzanne Schwartz, Office of the Center Director at (301) 796-6937 or email [CyberMed@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:CyberMed@fda.hhs.gov). For questions about this document regarding CBER-regulated devices, contact the Office of Communication, Outreach, and Development (OCOD) at 1-800-835-4709 or 240-402-8010.

**When final, this guidance will supersede Content of Premarket Submissions for Management of Cybersecurity in Medical Devices – Final Guidance, October 2, 2014**



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Food and Drug Administration  
Center for Devices and Radiological Health  
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## **Preface**

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38

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DRAFT

# Content of Premarket Submissions for Management of Cybersecurity in Medical Devices

## Draft Guidance for Industry and Food and Drug Administration Staff

*This draft guidance, when finalized, will represent the current thinking of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA or Agency) on this topic. It does not establish any rights for any person and is not binding on FDA or the public. You can use an alternative approach if it satisfies the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations. To discuss an alternative approach, contact the FDA staff or Office responsible for this guidance as listed on the title page.*

### I. Introduction

The need for effective cybersecurity to ensure medical device functionality and safety has become more important with the increasing use of wireless, Internet- and network- connected devices, portable media (e.g. USB or CD), and the frequent electronic exchange of medical device-related health information. In addition, cybersecurity threats to the healthcare sector have become more frequent, more severe, and more clinically impactful. Cybersecurity incidents have rendered medical devices and hospital networks inoperable, disrupting the delivery of patient care across healthcare facilities in the US and globally. Such cyberattacks and exploits can delay diagnoses and/or treatment and may lead to patient harm.

This guidance is intended to provide recommendations to industry regarding cybersecurity device design, labeling, and the documentation that FDA recommends be included in premarket submissions for devices with cybersecurity risk. These recommendations can facilitate an efficient premarket review process and help ensure that marketed medical devices are sufficiently resilient to cybersecurity threats.

Although FDA issued final guidance addressing premarket expectations in 2014, the rapidly evolving landscape, and the increased understanding of the threats and their potential mitigations, necessitates an updated approach. This guidance has been developed by the FDA to assist industry by identifying issues related to cybersecurity that manufacturers should address in the design and development of their medical devices as well as in preparing premarket

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103 submissions for those devices. The recommendations contained in this guidance document are  
104 intended to supplement FDA’s “[Guidance for the Content of Premarket Submissions for](#)  
105 [Software Contained in Medical Devices](#)”<sup>1</sup> and “[Guidance to Industry: Cybersecurity for](#)  
106 [Networked Medical Devices Containing Off-the-Shelf \(OTS\) Software](#).”<sup>2</sup> When finalized, this  
107 guidance will replace the final guidance “[Content of Premarket Submissions for Management of](#)  
108 [Cybersecurity in Medical Devices](#).”<sup>3</sup>

109  
110 For the current edition of the FDA-recognized standard(s) referenced in this document, see the  
111 [FDA Recognized Consensus Standards Database](#).<sup>4</sup>

112  
113 FDA's guidance documents, including this draft guidance, do not establish legally enforceable  
114 responsibilities. Instead, guidances describe the Agency’s current thinking on a topic and should  
115 be viewed only as recommendations, unless specific regulatory or statutory requirements are  
116 cited. The use of the word *should* in Agency guidance means that something is suggested or  
117 recommended, but not required.

## 118 **II. Scope**

119  
120 This guidance provides recommendations to consider and information to include in FDA  
121 medical device premarket submissions for effective cybersecurity management. Effective  
122 cybersecurity management is intended to decrease the risk of patient harm by reducing  
123 device exploitability which can result in intentional or unintentional compromise of device  
124 safety and essential performance.<sup>5</sup>

125  
126 This guidance document is applicable to the following premarket submissions for devices  
127 that contain software (including firmware) or programmable logic as well as software that  
128 is a medical device (collectively referred to as “software devices”).<sup>6</sup>

- 129
- 130 • Premarket Notification (510(k)) submissions including Traditional, Special, and
  - 131 Abbreviated;
  - 132 • De Novo requests;
  - 133 • Premarket Approval Applications (PMAs);
  - 134 • Product Development Protocols (PDPs); and

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/DeviceRegulationandGuidance/GuidanceDocuments/UCM089593>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/DeviceRegulationandGuidance/GuidanceDocuments/UCM077823>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/DeviceRegulationandGuidance/GuidanceDocuments/UCM356190>

<sup>4</sup> Available at <https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfStandards/search.cfm>

<sup>5</sup> ANSI/AAMI ES60601-1:2005/(R)2012 and A1:2012, C1:2009/(R)2012 and A2:2010/(R)2012 (Consolidated Text) Medical electrical equipment— Part 1: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance (IEC 60601-1:2005, MOD), section 3.27 defines “Essential Performance” as performance of a clinical function, other than that related to basic safety, where loss or degradation beyond the limits specified by the manufacturer results in an unacceptable risk.”

<sup>6</sup> Manufacturers may also consider applying the cybersecurity principles described in this guidance as appropriate to Investigational Device Exemption submissions and to devices exempt from premarket review.

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- 135       • Humanitarian Device Exemption (HDE) applications.

### 136 **III. Definitions**

137 The definitions listed here are for the purposes of this guidance and are intended for use in the  
138 context of assessing medical device cybersecurity.

139  
140 **Asset** – anything that has value to an individual or an organization.<sup>7</sup>

141  
142 **Authentication** – the act of verifying the identity of a user, process, or device as a prerequisite to  
143 allowing access to the device, its data, information, or systems.<sup>8</sup>

144  
145 **Authenticity** – the property of being genuine and being able to be verified and trusted;  
146 confidence that the contents of a message originates from the expected party and has not been  
147 modified during transmission or storage.<sup>9</sup>

148  
149 **Authorization** – the right or a permission that is granted to access a device resource.<sup>10</sup>

150  
151 **Availability** – the property of data, information, and information systems to be accessible and  
152 usable on a timely basis in the expected manner (i.e. the assurance that information will be  
153 available when needed).

154  
155 **Confidentiality** – the property of data, information, or system structures to be accessible only to  
156 authorized persons and entities and are processed at authorized times and in the authorized  
157 manner, thereby helping ensure data and system security. Confidentiality provides the assurance  
158 that no unauthorized users (i.e., only trusted users) have access to the data, information, or  
159 system structures.

160  
161 **Configuration** – the possible conditions, parameters, and specifications with which a device or  
162 system component can be described or arranged.<sup>11</sup>

163

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<sup>7</sup> As defined in ISO/IEC 27032 Information technology — Security techniques — Guidelines for cybersecurity.

<sup>8</sup> Adapted from NIST FIPS 200 Minimum Security Requirements for Federal Information and Information Systems: Authentication is defined as verifying the identity of a user, process, or device, often as a prerequisite to allowing access to resources in an information system.

<sup>9</sup> From NIST SP 800-53 Security and Privacy Controls for Federal Information Systems and Organizations: Authenticity is defined as the property of being genuine and being able to be verified and trusted; confidence in the validity of a transmission, a message, or message originator. See Authentication.

<sup>10</sup> Adapted from NISTIR 7298 Glossary of Key Information Security Terms: Authorization is the access privileges granted to a user, program, or process or the act of granting those privileges.

<sup>11</sup> Adapted from NIST SP 800-128 Guide for Security-Focused Configuration Management of Information Systems: Configuration is the possible conditions, parameters, and specifications with which an information system or system component can be described or arranged.

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- 164 **Cryptographically strong** - cryptographic algorithms, protocols and implementations that  
165 authoritative sources in cryptography would consider sufficiently secure.  
166
- 167 **Cybersecurity** – is the process of preventing unauthorized access, modification, misuse or denial  
168 of use, or the unauthorized use of information that is stored, accessed, or transferred from a  
169 medical device to an external recipient.  
170
- 171 **Cybersecurity Bill of Materials (CBOM)** – a list that includes but is not limited to commercial,  
172 open source, and off-the-shelf software and hardware components that are or could become  
173 susceptible to vulnerabilities.  
174
- 175 **Denial of Service** – actions that prevent the system from functioning in accordance with its  
176 intended purpose. A piece of equipment or entity may be rendered inoperable or forced to  
177 operate in a degraded state; operations that depend on timeliness may be delayed.<sup>12</sup>  
178
- 179 **Encryption** –the cryptographic transformation of data into a form that conceals the data’s  
180 original meaning to prevent it from being known or used.<sup>13</sup>  
181
- 182 **End of support** – a point beyond which the product manufacturer ceases to provide support,  
183 which may include cybersecurity support, for a product or service.  
184
- 185 **Integrity** – the property of data, information and software to be accurate and complete and have  
186 not been improperly modified.  
187
- 188 **Jitter** – as it relates to queuing, the difference in latency of packets.<sup>14</sup>  
189
- 190 **Life-cycle** – all phases in the life of a medical device, from initial conception to final  
191 decommissioning and disposal.<sup>15</sup>  
192
- 193 **Malware** – software designed with malicious intent to disrupt normal function, gather sensitive  
194 information, and/or access other connected systems.  
195
- 196 **Patchability/Updatability** – the ease with which a device and related systems can be updated  
197 and patched in a timely manner.  
198

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<sup>12</sup> From NIST SP 800-24 PBX Vulnerability Analysis: Finding Holes in Your PBX Before Someone Else Does.

<sup>13</sup> From NIST SP 800-82 Guide to Industrial Control Systems (ICS) Security. Cryptographic transformation of data (called “plaintext”) into a form (called “ciphertext”) that conceals the data’s original meaning to prevent it from being known or used. If the transformation is reversible, the corresponding reversal process is called “decryption,” which is a transformation that restores encrypted data to its original state.

<sup>14</sup> From NIST SP 800-127 Guide to Securing WiMAX Wireless Communications.

<sup>15</sup> ANSI/AAMI/ISO 14971 Medical Devices – Application of Risk Management to Medical Devices

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199 **Patient harm** – is defined as physical injury or damage to the health of patients, including  
200 death.<sup>16</sup> Cybersecurity exploits (e.g. loss of authenticity, availability, integrity, or confidentiality) of  
201 a device may pose a risk to health and may result in patient harm.  
202

203 **Privileged User** – a user who is authorized (and, therefore, trusted) to perform security-relevant  
204 functions that ordinary users are not authorized to perform.<sup>17</sup>  
205

206 **Quality of Service** – the measurable end-to-end performance properties of a network service,  
207 which can be guaranteed in advance by a Service Level Agreement between an end-user and a  
208 service provider, so as to satisfy specific customer application requirements.<sup>18</sup>  
209

210 **Risk** – the combination of the probability of occurrence of harm and the severity of that harm.<sup>19</sup>  
211

212 **Risk Analysis** – the systematic use of available information to identify hazards and to estimate  
213 the risk.<sup>19</sup>  
214

215 **Trustworthy Device** – a medical device containing hardware, software, and/or programmable  
216 logic that: (1) is reasonably secure from cybersecurity intrusion and misuse; (2) provides a  
217 reasonable level of availability, reliability, and correct operation; (3) is reasonably suited to  
218 performing its intended functions; and (4) adheres to generally accepted security procedures.<sup>20</sup>

## 219 **IV. General Principles & Risk Assessment**

220  
221 In order to demonstrate a reasonable assurance of safety and effectiveness for software devices,  
222 documentation related to the requirements of the Quality System Regulation (QSR) (21 CFR Part  
223 820) is often a necessary part of the premarket submission. See also “Guidance for the Content  
224 of Premarket Submissions for Software Contained in Medical Devices” (available at  
225 [https://www.fda.gov/downloads/MedicalDevices/DeviceRegulationandGuidance/GuidanceDocu](https://www.fda.gov/downloads/MedicalDevices/DeviceRegulationandGuidance/GuidanceDocuments/ucm089593.pdf)  
226 [ments/ucm089593.pdf](https://www.fda.gov/downloads/MedicalDevices/DeviceRegulationandGuidance/GuidanceDocuments/ucm089593.pdf)). As part of QSR design controls, a manufacturer must “establish and  
227 maintain procedures for validating the devices design,” which “shall include software validation  
228 and risk analysis, where appropriate.” 21 CFR 820.30(g).  
229

230 As part of the software validation and risk analysis required by 21 CFR 820.30(g), software  
231 device manufacturers may need to establish a cybersecurity vulnerability and management  
232 approach, where appropriate. FDA recommends that this approach include a set of cybersecurity

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<sup>16</sup> ANSI/AAMI/ISO 14971 Medical devices—Application of risk management to medical devices defines “*harm*” as the physical injury or damage to the health of people, or damage to property or the environment.

<sup>17</sup> From NIST SP 800-53 Security and Privacy Controls for Federal Information Systems and Organizations

<sup>18</sup> From CNSSI 4009 Committee on National Security Systems (CNSS) Glossary.

<sup>19</sup> ANSI/AAMI/ISO 14971 Medical Devices – Application of Risk Management to Medical Devices

<sup>20</sup> Adapted from NIST SP 800-32 Introduction to Public Key Technology and the Federal PKI Infrastructure which defines trustworthy system as Computer hardware, software and procedures that: (1) are reasonably secure from intrusion and misuse; (2) provide a reasonable level of availability, reliability, and correct operation; (3) are reasonably suited to performing their intended functions; and (4) adhere to generally accepted security procedures.



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233 design controls to ensure medical device cybersecurity and maintain medical device safety and  
234 effectiveness. Such design controls may make it more likely that FDA will find your device  
235 meets its applicable statutory standard for premarket review.<sup>21</sup>  
236

237 FDA recognizes that medical device security is a shared responsibility among stakeholders,  
238 including health care facilities, patients, health care providers, and manufacturers of medical  
239 devices. Failure to maintain cybersecurity can result in compromised device functionality, loss  
240 of data (medical or personal) authenticity, availability or integrity, or exposure of other  
241 connected devices or networks to security threats. This in turn may have the potential to result in  
242 patient illness, injury, or death.  
243

244 The recommendations in this guidance are intended to aid manufacturers to:

- 245 1) employ a risk-based approach to the design and development of medical devices with  
246 appropriate cybersecurity protections;
- 247 2) take a holistic approach to device cybersecurity by assessing risks and mitigations  
248 throughout the product's lifecycle;
- 249 3) ensure maintenance and continuity of critical device safety and essential  
250 performance<sup>22</sup>; and
- 251 4) promote the development of trustworthy devices to help ensure the continued safety  
252 and effectiveness of the devices.  
253

254 The QSR requires that manufacturers of devices automated with computer software establish  
255 and maintain procedures to ensure that the design requirements relating to the device are  
256 appropriate and address the intended use of the device, including the needs of the user and  
257 patient. 21 CFR 820.30(c). FDA recommends that manufacturers consider the following  
258 elements as they address cybersecurity during the design and development of their medical  
259 device:  
260

- 261 • identification of assets, threats, and vulnerabilities
- 262 • assessment of the impact of threats and vulnerabilities on device functionality and end  
263 users/patients;
- 264 • assessment of the likelihood<sup>23</sup> of a threat and of a vulnerability being exploited;
- 265 • determination of risk levels and suitable mitigation strategies; and
- 266 • assessment of residual risk and risk acceptance criteria.  
267

268 Medical devices capable of connecting (wirelessly or hard-wired) to another device, to the  
269 Internet or other network, or to portable media (e.g. USB or CD) are more vulnerable to  
270 cybersecurity threats than devices that are not connected. Manufacturers should employ a risk-  
271 based approach when determining the design features and the level of cybersecurity resilience

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<sup>21</sup> For more information about how FDA evaluates substantial equivalence in 510(k) submissions, see the FDA guidance document "[The 510\(k\) Program: Evaluating Substantial Equivalence in Premarket Notifications \[510\(k\)\]](#)

<sup>22</sup> [Postmarket Management of Cybersecurity in Medical Devices](#)

<https://www.fda.gov/downloads/medicaldevices/deviceregulationandguidance/guidancedocuments/ucm482022.pdf>

<sup>23</sup> Likelihood assessments should leverage an analysis of exploitability not probability.

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272 appropriate for a device. A Cybersecurity Bill of Materials (CBOM) can be a critical element  
273 in identifying assets, threats, and liabilities. Leveraging a CBOM may also support compliance  
274 with purchasing controls (21 CFR 820.50), by facilitating the establishment of requirements  
275 regarding cybersecurity for all purchased or otherwise received products. The extent to which  
276 security controls are needed will depend on the device’s intended use, the presence and  
277 functionality of its electronic data interfaces, its intended environment of use, the type of  
278 cybersecurity vulnerabilities present, the exploitability of the vulnerability, either intentionally  
279 or unintentionally, and the probable risk of patient harm due to a cybersecurity breach.

280

281 For the purposes of this guidance, and to help clarify FDA’s premarket cybersecurity  
282 recommendations, we are defining two “tiers” of devices according to their cybersecurity risk:

283

#### **Tier 1 “Higher Cybersecurity Risk”**

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A device is a Tier 1 device if the following criteria are met:

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- 1) The device is capable of connecting (e.g., wired, wirelessly) to another medical or non-medical product, or to a network, or to the Internet; AND
- 2) A cybersecurity incident affecting the device could directly result in patient harm to multiple patients.

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Examples of Tier 1 devices, include but are not limited to, implantable cardioverter defibrillators (ICDs), pacemakers, left ventricular assist devices (LVADs), brain stimulators and neurostimulators, dialysis devices, infusion and insulin pumps, and the supporting connected systems that interact with these devices such as home monitors and those with command and control functionality such as programmers.

300

301

#### **Tier 2 “Standard Cybersecurity Risk”**

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303

A medical device for which the criteria for a Tier 1 device are not met.

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For this cybersecurity guidance only, FDA introduces the tiers of higher and standard cybersecurity risk to aid medical device manufacturers in the design of secure devices and aid in providing supporting documentation to FDA. We recognize that this cybersecurity risk tiering may not track to FDA’s existing statutory device classifications. For example, based on the manufacturer’s assessment and device design, a class II device such as an infusion pump, may meet the criteria for Tier 1 higher cybersecurity risk while a class III device, such as a coronary atherectomy device with no connectivity may meet the criteria for Tier 2 standard cybersecurity risk. The principles and approaches described in this guidance are broadly applicable to all medical devices and are intended to be consistent with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Framework for Improving Critical Infrastructure

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314 Cybersecurity to manage cybersecurity-related risks by focusing on core functions of identify,  
315 protect, detect, respond, and recover.<sup>24</sup>  
316

317 **V. Designing a Trustworthy Device: Application of NIST**  
318 **Cybersecurity Framework**

319  
320 As mentioned in Section IV, for software devices, documentation related to design controls,  
321 and specifically design validation and software validation and risk analysis in 21 CFR  
322 820.30(g), is often necessary to provide a reasonable assurance of safety and effectiveness in a  
323 premarket submission. For devices with cybersecurity risks, we recommend that  
324 manufacturers design devices that are trustworthy because trustworthy devices may be more  
325 likely to meet their applicable statutory standard for premarket review and because trustworthy  
326 devices are more likely to remain safe and effective throughout their life-cycle. Trustworthy  
327 devices: (1) are reasonably secure from cybersecurity intrusion and misuse; (2) provide a  
328 reasonable level of availability, reliability, and correct operation; (3) are reasonably suited to  
329 performing their intended functions; and (4) adhere to generally accepted security procedures.  
330 In addition, documentation demonstrating the trustworthiness of a device will help FDA more  
331 quickly and efficiently assess the device’s safety and effectiveness with respect to  
332 cybersecurity.

333  
334 This section describes the specific design features and cybersecurity design controls that the  
335 Agency believes should be included in the design of a trustworthy device. We recommend  
336 premarket submissions for Tier 1 devices with higher cybersecurity risk to include  
337 documentation demonstrating how the device design and risk assessment incorporate the  
338 cybersecurity design controls described below. For Tier 2 devices with standard cybersecurity  
339 risk, we recommend that manufacturers include documentation in their premarket submissions  
340 that either 1) demonstrates they have incorporated each of the specific design features and  
341 cybersecurity design controls described in this section, or 2) provide a risk-based rationale for  
342 why specific cybersecurity design controls, described in this section, are not appropriate. Risk-  
343 based rationales should leverage an analysis of exploitability to describe likelihood instead of  
344 probability.

345  
346 Submitted documentation may include the demonstration of comparable and/or additional  
347 cybersecurity design controls that may not be described in this document. Furthermore, as  
348 cybersecurity design controls are established early on during the development phase, we  
349 recommend industry utilize the FDA presubmission process to discuss design considerations  
350 for meeting adequacy of cybersecurity risk management throughout the device life-cycle.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Framework for Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity, available at: <https://www.nist.gov/cyberframework>

<sup>25</sup>For more information, see FDA’s guidance entitled “Request for Feedback on Medical Device Submissions: The Pre-Submission Program and Meetings with Food and Drug Administrative Staff” (<https://www.fda.gov/downloads/medicaldevices/deviceregulationandguidance/guidancedocuments/ucm311176.pdf>)

351 **A. Identify and Protect Device Assets and Functionality**

352  
353 Manufacturers should design trustworthy devices and provide documentation to demonstrate the  
354 trustworthiness of their devices in premarket review. In particular, devices and systems should be  
355 designed to protect assets and functionality in order to reduce the risk of multi-patient harm due  
356 to the loss of authenticity, availability, integrity, and confidentiality. Specifically, protection  
357 mechanisms should prevent all unauthorized use (through all interfaces); ensure code, data, and  
358 execution integrity (subversion of system functionality/safety/security features); and as  
359 appropriate, protect confidentiality of data (insofar as its release could be leveraged to effect  
360 multi-patient harm. As a part of premarket submissions, manufacturers should submit  
361 documentation demonstrating how these design expectations are met.

362 **1. Prevent Unauthorized Use**

363  
364 In order to reduce the risk of multi-patient harm due to the loss of authenticity, availability,  
365 integrity, and confidentiality, we have provided design recommendations with respect to  
366 authentication, authorization, and encryption in the section below. Authentication is used to  
367 prevent unauthorized access to device functions and to prevent unauthorized software execution.  
368 It provides the assurance that a communication and/or command is unmodified and originates  
369 from an authorized source, which, in conjunction with other controls that prevent replays, makes  
370 it more difficult for external adversaries to issue potentially harmful commands to a safety-  
371 critical system. Usually, authorization is only effective as a security control in conjunction with  
372 correctly implemented authentication. Except in circumstances when system design features  
373 intrinsically provide equivalent or stronger assurance, all devices should properly authenticate  
374 potentially harmful commands and/or data.

375  
376 As a defensive measure, authorization enforces privileges associated with authentication  
377 credentials and/or roles to reject all disallowed behavior. That means that an adversary using a  
378 credential with lower privileges should not be able to access device resources or functionality  
379 that require higher privileges (i.e., the default device design should prevent this from occurring).  
380 Devices should have appropriate protections in place that prevent sensitive information from  
381 being read by unauthorized parties either in storage or in transmission. Encryption should be  
382 used as appropriate, since it protects sensitive information from unauthorized disclosure. The  
383 following outline provides recommended design implementations of authentication,  
384 authorization, and encryption:

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- 385                    **(a)    Limit Access to Trusted Users & Devices Only**
- 386                    (i)    Limit access to devices through the authentication of users  
387                    (e.g., user ID and password, smartcard, biometric).
- 388                    (ii)   Use automatic timed methods to terminate sessions within  
389                    the system where appropriate for the use environment.
- 390                    (iii)   Employ a layered authorization model by differentiating  
391                    privileges based on the user role (e.g., caregiver, patient,  
392                    health care provider, system administrator) or device  
393                    functions.
- 394                    (iv)   Use appropriate authentication (e.g., multi-factor  
395                    authentication to permit privileged device access to system  
396                    administrators, service technicians, maintenance  
397                    personnel).
- 398                    (v)   Strengthen password protection. Do not use credentials  
399                    that are hardcoded, default, easily-guessed, easily  
400                    compromised (i.e., passwords which are the same for each  
401                    device; unchangeable; can persist as default; difficult to  
402                    change; and vulnerable to public disclosure). Limit public  
403                    access to passwords used for privileged device access.
- 404                    (vi)   Consider physical locks on devices and their  
405                    communication ports to minimize tampering.
- 406                    **(b)    Authenticate and Check Authorization of Safety-Critical**  
407                    **Commands**
- 408                    (i)    Use authentication to prevent unauthorized access to device  
409                    functions and to prevent unauthorized (arbitrary) software  
410                    execution.
- 411                    (ii)   Require user authentication before permitting software or  
412                    firmware updates, including those affecting the operating  
413                    system, applications, and anti-malware.
- 414                    (iii)   Use cryptographically strong authentication resident on the  
415                    device to authenticate personnel, messages, commands and  
416                    as applicable, all other communication pathways.
- 417                    (iv)   Authenticate all external connections. For example, if a  
418                    device connects to an offsite server, then it and the server

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- 419 should mutually authenticate, even if the connection is  
420 initiated over one or more existing trusted channels.
- 421 (v) Authenticate firmware and software. Verify authentication  
422 tags (e.g., signatures, message authentication codes  
423 (MACs)) of software/firmware content, version numbers,  
424 and other metadata. The version numbers intended to be  
425 installed should themselves be signed/have  
426 MACs. Devices should be electronically identifiable (e.g.,  
427 model number, serial number) to authorized users.
- 428 (vi) Perform authorization checks based on authentication  
429 credentials or other irrefutable evidence. For example, a  
430 medical device programmer should have elevated  
431 privileges that are granted based on cryptographic  
432 authentication or a signal of intent that cannot physically be  
433 produced by another device, e.g., a home monitor, with a  
434 software-based attack.
- 435 (vii) Devices should be designed to “deny by default,” i.e., that  
436 which is not expressly permitted by a device is denied by  
437 default. For example, the device should generally reject all  
438 unauthorized connections (e.g., incoming TCP, USB,  
439 Bluetooth, serial connections).
- 440 (viii) The principle of least privilege should be applied to allow  
441 only the level of access necessary to perform a function.
- 442 **2. Ensure Trusted Content by Maintaining Code, Data, and**  
443 **Execution Integrity**
- 444 (a) **Code Integrity**
- 445 (i) Only allow installation of cryptographically verified  
446 firmware/software updates. Use cryptographically signed  
447 updates to help prevent unauthorized reduction in the level  
448 of protection (downgrade or rollback attacks) by ensuring

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449 that the new update is more recent than the currently  
450 installed version.

451 (ii) Where feasible, ensure that the integrity of software is  
452 validated prior to execution, e.g., ‘whitelisting’ based on  
453 digital signatures.

#### 454 (b) **Data Integrity**

455 (i) Verify the integrity of all incoming data (ensuring it is not  
456 modified in transit or at rest, and it is well-formed/compliant  
457 with the expected protocol/specification).

458 (ii) Ensure capability of secure data transfer to and from the  
459 device, and when appropriate, use methods for encryption and  
460 authentication of the end points with which data is being  
461 transferred.

462 (iii) Protect the integrity of data necessary to ensure the safety and  
463 essential performance of the device.

464 (iv) Use current NIST recommended standards for cryptography  
465 (e.g., FIPS 140-2, NIST<sup>26</sup> Suite B<sup>27</sup>), or equivalent-strength  
466 cryptographic protection for communications channels.

467 (v) Use unique per device cryptographically secure communication  
468 keys to prevent leveraging the knowledge of one key to access  
469 a multitude of devices.

#### 470 (c) **Execution Integrity**

471 Where feasible, use industry-accepted best practices to  
472 maintain/verify integrity of code while it is being executed on the  
473 device.

### 474 3. **Maintain Confidentiality of Data**

475  
476 Manufacturers should ensure the confidentiality of any/all data whose disclosure could lead to  
477 patient harm (e.g., through use of credentials, encryption). Loss of confidentiality of credentials  
478 could be used by a threat to effect multi-patient harm. Lack of encryption to protect sensitive  
479 information "at rest" and "in transit" can expose this information to misuse that can lead to  
480 patient harm.

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<sup>26</sup> NIST FIPS 140-2 Cryptographic Module Validation Program available at:

<https://csrc.nist.gov/Projects/Cryptographic-Module-Validation-Program/Standards>

<sup>27</sup> NIST FIPS 140-2 Suite B available at: <https://csrc.nist.gov/CSRC/media/projects/cryptographic-module-validation-program/documents/security-policies/140sp2851.pdf>

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481  
482 Other harms, such as loss of confidential protected health information (PHI), are not considered  
483 “patient harms” for the purposes of this guidance. Although protecting the confidentiality of PHI  
484 is beyond the scope of this document, it should be noted that manufacturers and/or other entities,  
485 depending on the facts and circumstances, may be obligated to protect the confidentiality,  
486 integrity and availability of PHI throughout the product lifecycle, in accordance with applicable  
487 federal and state laws, including the Health Information Portability and Accountability Act  
488 (HIPAA).<sup>28</sup>

## 489 **B. Detect, Respond, Recover: Design Expectations**

490  
491 Proper device design can significantly reduce cybersecurity risk for the device while it is  
492 marketed and deployed in its use environment. Therefore, appropriate design should anticipate  
493 the need to detect and respond to dynamic cybersecurity risks, including the need for deployment  
494 of cybersecurity routine updates and patches as well as emergency workarounds. The following  
495 items articulate recommendations for the design of a trustworthy device as it pertains to the  
496 NIST core functions of detect, respond, and recover.

### 497 **1. Design the Device to Detect Cybersecurity Events in a** 498 **Timely Fashion**

- 499 (a) Implement design features that allow for security compromises to  
500 be detected, recognized, logged, timed, and acted upon during  
501 normal use.
- 502 (b) Devices should be designed to permit routine security and antivirus  
503 scanning such that the safety and essential performance of the  
504 device is not impacted.
- 505 (c) Ensure the design enables forensic evidence capture. The design  
506 should include mechanisms to create and store log files for security  
507 events. Documentation should include how and where the log file  
508 is located, stored, recycled, archived, and how it could be  
509 consumed by automated analysis software (e.g. Intrusion Detection  
510 System, IDS). Examples of security events include but are not  
511 limited to configuration changes, network anomalies, login

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<sup>28</sup> The HHS Office for Civil Rights enforces the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule, which protects the privacy of individually identifiable health information that covered entities or their business associates create, receive, maintain, or transmit; the HIPAA Security Rule, which sets national standards for the security of electronic protected health information; the HIPAA Breach Notification Rule, which requires covered entities and business associates to provide notification following a breach of unsecured protected health information; and the confidentiality provisions of the Patient Safety Rule, which protect identifiable information being used to analyze patient safety events and improve patient safety. See Health Information Privacy at: <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/index.html>.



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512 attempts, and anomalous traffic (e.g., sending requests to unknown  
513 entities).

514 (d) The device design should limit the potential impact of  
515 vulnerabilities by specifying a secure configuration. Secure  
516 configurations may include endpoint protections such as anti-  
517 malware, firewall/firewall rules, whitelisting, defining security  
518 event parameters, logging parameters, physical security detection.

519 (e) The device design should enable software configuration  
520 management and permit tracking and control of software changes  
521 to be electronically obtainable (i.e., machine readable) by  
522 authorized users.

523 (f) The product life-cycle, including its design, should facilitate a  
524 variant analysis of a vulnerability across device models and  
525 product lines.

526 (g) The device design should provide a CBOM in a machine readable,  
527 electronic format to be consumed automatically.<sup>29</sup>

528 2. **Design the Device to Respond to and contain the impact of a**  
529 **potential cybersecurity incident**

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<sup>29</sup> Recommendation 2.2 from the Health Care Industry and Cybersecurity Task Force (HCIC TF) Report on Improving Cybersecurity in the Health Care Industry available here:  
<https://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/planning/CyberTF/Documents/report2017.pdf>

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- 530 (a) The device should be designed to notify users upon detection of a  
531 potential cybersecurity breach.
- 532 (b) The device should be designed to anticipate the need for software  
533 patches and updates to address future cybersecurity vulnerabilities.
- 534 (c) The device should be designed to facilitate the rapid verification,  
535 validation, and testing of patches and updates.
- 536 (d) The design architecture should facilitate the rapid deployment of  
537 patches and updates.
- 538 3. **Design the Device to Recover capabilities or services that**  
539 **were impaired due to a cybersecurity incident**
- 540 (a) Implement device features that protect critical functionality and  
541 data, even when the device’s cybersecurity has been compromised.
- 542 (b) The design should provide methods for retention and recovery of  
543 device configuration by an authenticated privileged user.
- 544 (c) The design should specify the level of autonomous functionality  
545 (resilience) any component of the system possesses when its  
546 communication capabilities with the rest of the system are  
547 disrupted including disruption of significant duration.
- 548 (d) Devices should be designed to be resilient to possible  
549 cybersecurity incident scenarios such as network outages, Denial  
550 of Service attacks, excessive bandwidth usage by other products,  
551 disrupted quality of service (QoS), and excessive jitter (i.e., a  
552 variation in the delay of received packets).

553 **VI. Labeling Recommendations for Devices with**  
554 **Cybersecurity Risks**

555 This section gives background on some device labeling requirements and regulations and  
556 explains the role labeling may have in safety and effectiveness for devices with cybersecurity  
557 risks. It then contains labeling recommendations for communicating relevant security  
558 information to end-users that may help manufacturers comply with applicable requirements and  
559 help ensure a device remains safe and effective throughout its life-cycle.

560  
561 FDA regulates device labeling in several ways. For example, section 502(f) of the Federal Food,  
562 Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act) requires that labeling include adequate directions for use.  
563 Under section 502(a)(1) of the FD&C Act, a medical device is deemed misbranded if its labeling  
564 is false or misleading in any particular. Under section 201(n), labeling may be misleading if it

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565 fails to reveal facts material with respect to consequences which may result from use of the  
566 article under the conditions of use prescribed in the labeling or under such conditions of use as  
567 are customary or usual. *See also* 21 CFR 1.21.  
568

569 FDA device regulations contain further requirements related to labeling. For example, 21 CFR  
570 801.5 requires that labeling include adequate directions for use, including statements of all  
571 conditions, purposes, or uses for which the device is intended (e.g., hazards, warnings,  
572 precautions, contraindications). For prescription devices, 21 CFR 801.109(c) requires that  
573 labeling include any relevant hazards, contraindications, side effects, and precautions under  
574 which practitioners licensed by law to administer the device can use the device safely and for the  
575 purpose for which it is intended.  
576

577 For devices with cybersecurity risks, informing end-users of relevant security information may  
578 be an effective way to comply with labeling requirements. FDA also believes that informing  
579 end-users of security information through labeling may be an important part of QSR design  
580 controls to help mitigate cybersecurity risks and help ensure the continued safety and  
581 effectiveness of the device. Therefore, when drafting labeling for inclusion in a premarket  
582 submission, a manufacturer should consider all applicable labeling requirements and how  
583 informing users through labeling may be an effective way to manage cybersecurity risks.  
584 Specifically, we recommend the following be included in labeling to communicate to end-users  
585 relevant security information:<sup>30</sup>  
586

- 587 1. Device instructions and product specifications related to recommended  
588 cybersecurity controls appropriate for the intended use environment (e.g.,  
589 anti-virus software, use of a firewall).  
590
- 591 2. A description of the device features that protect critical functionality, even  
592 when the device's cybersecurity has been compromised.  
593
- 594 3. A description of backup and restore features and procedures to regain  
595 configurations.  
596
- 597 4. Specific guidance to users regarding supporting infrastructure  
598 requirements so that the device can operate as intended.  
599
- 600 5. A description of how the device is or can be hardened using secure  
601 configuration. Secure configurations may include end point protections  
602 such as anti-malware, firewall/firewall rules, whitelisting, security event  
603 parameters, logging parameters, physical security detection.  
604
- 605 6. A list of network ports and other interfaces that are expected to receive  
606 and/or send data, and a description of port functionality and whether the

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<sup>30</sup> See IEC TR 80001-2-2 and IEC TR 80001-2-8 and IEC TR 80001-2-9 for further information

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- 607 ports are incoming or outgoing (note that unused ports should be  
608 disabled).
- 609
- 610 7. A description of systematic procedures for authorized users to download  
611 version-identifiable software and firmware from the manufacturer.  
612
- 613 8. A description of how the design enables the device to announce when  
614 anomalous conditions are detected (i.e., security events). Security event  
615 types could be configuration changes, network anomalies, login attempts,  
616 anomalous traffic (e.g., send requests to unknown entities).  
617
- 618 9. A description of how forensic evidence is captured, including but not  
619 limited to any log files kept for a security event. Log files descriptions  
620 should include how and where the log file is located, stored, recycled,  
621 archived, and how it could be consumed by automated analysis software  
622 (e.g., Intrusion Detection System, IDS).  
623
- 624 10. A description of the methods for retention and recovery of device  
625 configuration by an authenticated privileged user.  
626
- 627 11. Sufficiently detailed system diagrams for end-users.  
628
- 629 12. A CBOM including but not limited to a list of commercial, open source,  
630 and off-the-shelf software and hardware components to enable device  
631 users (including patients, providers, and healthcare delivery organizations  
632 (HDOs)) to effectively manage their assets, to understand the potential  
633 impact of identified vulnerabilities to the device (and the connected  
634 system), and to deploy countermeasures to maintain the device's essential  
635 performance.
- 636 13. Where appropriate, technical instructions to permit secure network  
637 (connected) deployment and servicing, and instructions for users on how  
638 to respond upon detection of a cybersecurity vulnerability or incident.
- 639 14. Information, if known, concerning device cybersecurity end of support.  
640 At the end of support, a manufacturer may no longer be able to reasonably  
641 provide security patches or software updates. If the device remains in  
642 service following the end of support, the cybersecurity risks for end-users  
643 can be expected to increase over time.

644 These recommendations aim to communicate to end-users relevant security information, thereby  
645 helping ensure a device remains safe and effective through its life-cycle.  
646

647 **VII. Cybersecurity Documentation**

648  
649 This section lists recommended documentation manufacturers should submit in their premarket  
650 submission in addition to any submitted software documentation<sup>31</sup>. Specifically, FDA  
651 recommends that manufacturers include documentation of the design features from section V  
652 above, as well as risk management documentation, and labeling to demonstrate a risk-based  
653 approach that incorporates design features and a level of cybersecurity resilience appropriate for  
654 the device.

655 **A. Design Documentation**

656  
657 The design documentation should demonstrate that the device is trustworthy.

- 658 1. For Tier 1 devices, documentation that addresses each recommendation in  
659 Section V.
- 660 2. For Tier 2 devices, documentation that addresses each recommendation in  
661 Section V or include a risk-based rationale for why a cybersecurity design  
662 control was not necessary. Risk-based rationales should leverage an  
663 analysis of exploitability to describe likelihood instead of probability.
- 664 3. System Diagrams sufficiently detailed to permit an understanding of how  
665 the specific device design elements (from section V) are incorporated into  
666 a system-level and holistic picture. Analysis of the entire system is  
667 necessary to understand the manufacturer’s threat model and the device  
668 within the larger ecosystem.

669  
670 **System diagrams should include:**

---

<sup>31</sup> [Content of Premarket Submissions for Software Contained in Medical Devices](https://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/DeviceRegulationandGuidance/GuidanceDocuments/UCM089593)  
<https://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/DeviceRegulationandGuidance/GuidanceDocuments/UCM089593>.

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- 671 (a) Network, architecture, flow, and state diagrams.
- 672 (b) The interfaces, components, assets, communication pathways,  
673 protocols, and network ports.
- 674 (c) Authentication mechanisms and controls for each communicating  
675 asset or component of the system including web sites, servers,  
676 interoperable systems, cloud stores, etc.
- 677 (d) Users' roles and level of responsibility if they interact with these  
678 assets or communication channels.
- 679 (e) Use of cryptographic methods should include descriptions of the  
680 method used and the type and level of cryptographic key usage and  
681 their style of use throughout your system (one-time use, key  
682 length, the standard employed, symmetric or otherwise, etc.).  
683 Descriptions should also include details of cryptographic  
684 protection for firmware and software updates.
- 685 4. A summary describing the design features that permit validated software  
686 updates and patches as needed throughout the life cycle of the medical  
687 device to continue to ensure its safety and effectiveness.<sup>32</sup>

## **B. Risk Management Documentation**

688  
689 Risk assessments tie design to threat models, clinical hazards, mitigations, and testing. It is  
690 important to establish a secure design architecture such that risk can be adequately managed.  
691 The suggested documentation leverages the concept of a Security Risk management report as  
692 described in the technical information report, AAMI TIR57 Principles for medical device  
693 security—Risk management,<sup>33</sup> although other forms of documentation that contain the same or  
694 similar information are acceptable. A security risk management report is a comprehensive  
695 approach that considers both security and safety risk analysis in a meaningful way. It provides a  
696 summary of the evaluation, assessment, and mitigation activities that assure a device is  
697 reasonably secure. The following recommendations relate to what is expected in the risk  
698 management report of a trustworthy device.  
699

- 700 1. A system level threat model that includes a consideration of system level  
701 risks, including but not limited to risks related to the supply chain (e.g., to  
702 ensure the device remains free of malware), design, production, and  
703 deployment (i.e., into a connected/networked environment).

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<sup>32</sup> For more information on FDA's recommendations for managing postmarket cybersecurity vulnerabilities for marketed and distributed devices, see [Postmarket Management of Cybersecurity in Medical Devices](https://www.fda.gov/downloads/medicaldevices/deviceregulationandguidance/guidancedocuments/ucm482022.pdf) <https://www.fda.gov/downloads/medicaldevices/deviceregulationandguidance/guidancedocuments/ucm482022.pdf>.

<sup>33</sup> AAMI TIR57: Principles for medical device security—Risk management

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- 704 2. A specific list of all cybersecurity risks that were considered in the design  
705 of your device. We recommend providing descriptions of risk that  
706 leverage an analysis of exploitability to describe likelihood instead of  
707 probability. If numerical probabilities are provided, we recommend  
708 providing additional information that explains how the probability was  
709 calculated.
- 710 3. A specific list and justification for all cybersecurity controls that were  
711 established for your device. This should include all risk mitigations and  
712 design considerations pertaining to intentional and unintentional  
713 cybersecurity risks associated with your device, including:
- 714 (a) A list of verifiable function/subsystem requirements related to  
715 access control, encryption/decryption, firewalls, intrusion  
716 detection/prevention, antivirus packages, etc.
- 717 (b) A list of verifiable of security requirements impacting other  
718 functionality, data, and interface requirements.
- 719 4. A description of the testing that was done to ensure the adequacy of  
720 cybersecurity risk controls (e.g., security effectiveness in enforcing the  
721 specified security policy, performance for required traffic conditions,  
722 stability and reliability as appropriate). Test reports should include:
- 723 (a) testing of device performance
- 724 (b) evidence of security effectiveness of third-party OTS software in  
725 the system.
- 726 (c) static and dynamic code analysis including testing for credentials  
727 that are “hardcoded”, default, easily-guessed, and easily  
728 compromised.
- 729 (d) vulnerability scanning
- 730 (e) robustness testing
- 731 (f) boundary analysis
- 732 (g) penetration testing
- 733 (h) Third Party test reports
- 734
- 735 5. A traceability matrix that links your actual cybersecurity controls to the  
736 cybersecurity risks that were considered in your security risk and hazard  
737 analysis.

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- 738 6. A CBOM cross referenced with the National Vulnerability Database  
739 (NVD) or similar known vulnerability database. Provide criteria for  
740 addressing known vulnerabilities and a rationale for not addressing  
741 remaining known vulnerabilities, consistent with the FDA’s final  
742 guidance, Postmarket Management of Cybersecurity in Medical Devices.<sup>34</sup>  
743

744 FDA believes that providing cybersecurity documentation like those recommended above will  
745 help FDA find that your device meets its applicable statutory standard for premarket review.

## 746 **VIII. Recognized Standards**

747  
748 Please refer to FDA’s website for a current list of FDA recognized consensus standards  
749 addressing Information Technology (IT) and medical device security to date.  
750

751 For an updated list of FDA recognized consensus standards the Agency recommends that you  
752 refer to the [FDA Recognized Consensus Standards Database](#),<sup>35</sup> and type “security” in the title  
753 search for the current list of IT and medical device security consensus standards that are  
754 recognized by the Agency.  
755

756 For information on recognition of consensus standards, see the guidance document “[CDRH  
757 Standard Operating Procedures for the Identification and Evaluation of Candidate Consensus  
758 Standards for Recognition](#).”<sup>36</sup>  
759

760 For information on the use of standards in premarket submissions, see the guidance document  
761 “[Appropriate Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards in Premarket Submissions for Medical  
762 Devices](#).”<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> This activity would support compliance with purchasing controls (21 CFR 820.50) by ensuring that all purchased or otherwise received product and services conform to specified requirements regarding cybersecurity. Similarly, this activity would support compliance with design controls and design validation (21 CFR 820.30(g)) to help assure that devices conform to defined user needs and intended uses, including that the software and hardware in the device are free of unacceptable cybersecurity vulnerabilities.

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfStandards/search.cfm>

<sup>36</sup> <https://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/DeviceRegulationandGuidance/GuidanceDocuments/ucm077322>

<sup>37</sup> <https://www.fda.gov/downloads/MedicalDevices/DeviceRegulationandGuidance/GuidanceDocuments/ucm077295.pdf>