What Can Provider Organizations Do to Prevent Data Breaches?
In this day and age, I think data breaches are not an “if,” they’re a “when.” They are a number of things that provider organizations can do to prepare for a data breach. First and foremost, they can constantly reevaluate their cybersecurity strategies. We know that the bad guys are coming up with new and innovative threats every day. We need to consistently reinforce those strategies and stay one step ahead of the bad guys. Secondly, we need to think about how we are going to provide data to our doctors and nurses as they’re providing care, in the event of a breach. And so that really is constantly evaluating your downtime protocols and making sure that they are going to give doctors the data that they need to do their jobs.

Third, we need to test our strategies for communicating with our patients after a breach, and make sure that we are doing the very best we can to make them feel comfortable with the swift and decisive actions that we’re taking on their behalf. And fourth, I think provider organizations need to share their data about best practices on how you protect patient data, and how we can do it across the industry. A cybersecurity breach doesn’t just affect one provider organization. It actually undermines confidence in the whole industry.