

## **Important Information: Ameritas Systems Not Susceptible to Heartbleed Cyber Threat**

April 11, 2014//Lincoln, Neb.//A major new cyber threat called Heartbleed was revealed earlier this week and has garnered a great deal of news coverage. This threat has existed for approximately two years, but was uncovered by security analysts only recently. This vulnerability means cyber-attackers can potentially gain access to users' passwords and fool people into using bogus versions of company websites.

**With regard to Ameritas' managed websites, we have completed a thorough analysis of our use of secure Socket Layer (SSL) technology and have determined our systems are not susceptible to the Heartbleed vulnerability.**

The problem lies with software called OpenSSL, which is widely used to encrypt Web communications using a technology called Secure Socket Layer (SSL). Heartbleed can potentially reveal the contents of a server's memory, where the most sensitive of data is stored, including private data, such as usernames, passwords and credit card numbers.

Security threats and vulnerabilities are certainly not new to the Internet, but Heartbleed is considered by most experts extremely serious. In many cases, it requires changes to existing websites that can also require users to change their passwords to protect themselves.

At Ameritas, protecting our customers' information is our top priority and we will continue to monitor our internal systems in the event we detect any potential threats.

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For more information, visit <http://www.ameritas.com>.

Contact: Scott Stuckey, vice president – corporate communications  
402-467-7432 | [sstuckey@ameritas.com](mailto:ssuckey@ameritas.com)