

# KPMG 2023 CCO Survey

# **Healthcare & Life Sciences**

The KPMG 2023 Chief Ethics & Compliance Officer (CCO) Survey explores how 240 CCOs from some of the world's largest companies (>\$5 billion in revenue) across six industries are adapting to new global challenges and evolving risks. CCOs in Healthcare & Life Sciences (HCLS)—a sector with two interdependent segments—are largely focused on navigating ever-changing regulatory expectations and ESG initiatives, as well as prioritizing better protections for cybersecurity and data privacy.

# Compliance pressure builds

Much like the majority of CCO respondents across industries, participants in HCLS say they feel the most pressure from their boards.

Top drivers of pressure in HCLS:







Regulators/ examiners:







# Challenges on the horizon

Like other industries, new regulatory requirements top HCLS CCOs' list of compliance challenges over the next two years. Among key challenges. they frequently mention the need for adequate resources for data analytics and technology tools, however HC and LS have very different responses in this area. Top challenges in HCLS:

#### Healthcare



#### **Life Sciences**



#### Top areas to improve

Over the next two years, like most sectors, HCLS CCOs say industry-specific regulations are the most important processes they plan to improve. Clearly, third-party risk is a focus for LS, given their dependencies on global supply chains, while consumer protections are a focus for HC.

Top areas to improve in HCLS:

#### **Industry-specific regulations**



#### Cyber/information protection and consumer protection



#### Third-party risk management



### **ESG:** A work in progress

HC organizations are ahead of LS and most other industries when it comes to the maturity of their ESG compliance programs. This is not surprising because ESG practices are inherent to the core values of many HC companies.

Maturity level of ESG programs in HCLS:



### Bigger budgets for technology needs

Most CCOs have their sights set on technology and data analytics as the top compliance activities to focus on enhancing over the next two years. The majority of HCLS CCOs expect their technology budgets to rise, with additional funds intended for technology in ethics and compliance functions:

# HCLS respondents: HCLS respondents:

65%

Increase

35%

Stay about the same

Cybersecurity and data privacy protections

Data analytics

50%

Process automation

**50%** 

**53%** 



"The majority of respondents in this survey stated that compliance is a board directive as organizations across the healthcare ecosystem need to proactively monitor and control risks pertaining to cybersecurity, patient data, access management, and third parties. By investing in advanced technologies, data analytics, and automation, these industry leaders can better manage compliancerelated risks."



Ash Shehata National Healthcare and Life Sciences Leader, KPMG LLP

#### **Automation**

More and more, HCLS businesses are looking for opportunities to automate. But even with bigger budgets, there are still multiple obstacles in the way before automation can be widely implemented.

Top areas automated over the past two years in HCLS:

Healthcare

Risk assessments Monitoring and testing

Life Sciences

Risk assessments Monitoring and testing

### What should HCLS companies focus on?



Boost retention in tight labor markets by providing meaningful, customized learning programs for compliance teams to advance technology skills and prepare younger generations with operational and industry knowledge needed.



Secure executive support to invest in advanced technology, data analytics, and automation that offer holistic views to monitor and manage compliance-related risks, and train employees to use these tools so they are prepared to help minimize compliance risks.



Take advantage of current HCLS industry consolidation opportunities for companies to modernize compliance technology and advance capabilities.

# The number of full-time employees over the next year will:

Healthcare

Most CCOs anticipate increasing their headcounts over the

next 12 months, despite talent shortages. HCLS segments

have very different ideas about future headcount—likely

Workforce worries

due to HC's struggle with retention.

**Life Sciences** 

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The KPMG Chief Ethics & Compliance Officer Survey is conducted bi-yearly to explore the priorities and two-year outlook of CCOs from some of the largest organizations in the world. Their responses offer valuable insights into key areas of ethics and compliance across six industries: Healthcare & Life Sciences; Financial Services; Industrial Manufacturing; Consumer & Retail; Technology, Media, & Telecommunications; and Energy, Natural Resources, and Chemicals.

Read more about the overall survey findings at read.kpmg.us/CCOSurvey.

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