



# MyOwnMed Ensures Compliance of Critical COVID-19 Mobile App

Clinical informatics company taps NowSecure for robust mobile application security services.

## About

My Own Med, Inc. (MyOwnMed), a clinical informatics company, was founded in 2013 to transform clinical research with patient-centricity. Serving more than 27,000 users in seven countries, the MyOwnMed ECOS System generates critical insights from electronic patient-recorded outcomes to help bring new drugs to market. The Bethesda, Md.,-based company boasts significant experience in infectious disease.

## Executive Summary

To support the community In response to COVID-19, MyOwnMed partnered with Drexel University to develop and release the Drexel Health Tracker mobile app. The app enables students, faculty and employees to collect and share real-time, real-world data to help fight the pandemic.

NowSecure mobile application security testing services helped MyOwnMed achieve the following benefits:

- Expert mobile app security assessment services to uncover security, privacy and compliance vulnerabilities
- Detailed recommendations for vulnerability remediation and retesting services
- Quickly deliver a COVID-19 app that helps research, slow or stop the spread of the coronavirus

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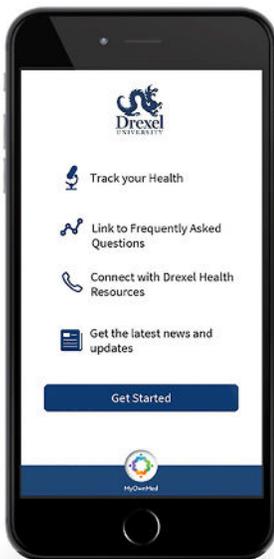
***“We reached out to NowSecure and were pleased that they rapidly responded in 24 hours to test our mobile app so we could speed it to market from start to finish in just a few weeks.”***

***— Vicki Seyfert-Margolis  
CEO, MyOwnMed***

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## The Story

MyOwnMed develops software for clinical research that captures patient health data between office visits. The company has released about a dozen mobile apps for use by patients, doctors and caregivers.



The company recently partnered with Drexel University to rapidly develop and release a mobile app to help students, faculty and staff collect and share real-time data to stem the spread of COVID-19. Available for Android and iOS, Drexel Health Tracker enables users to track health, access FAQs and connect with Drexel Health Resources. Users can select symptoms such as a fever, cough or shortness of breath and choose the date they first experienced symptoms.

MyOwnMed turned to NowSecure to help get this critical health app to the public quickly during the pandemic. The NowSecure Services team conducted mobile application security assessments of the Android and iOS Drexel Health Tracker app to pinpoint security, privacy and compliance issues to remedy prior to releasing the app to the Apple® App Store® and Google Play™.

NowSecure captured the attention of MyOwnMed Chief Digital Officer Trang Gisler when she was searching for mobile application security testing solutions online. The clinical research technology vendor taps a mix of third-party mobile app security testing and internal resources and sought the deeper level of assurance that a third-party assessment provides.

"I wanted an organization like NowSecure to provide us with robust testing, especially because we have patient-facing mobile apps that are subject to regulations," Gisler says. "We wanted to ensure complete quality testing of regulatory and legal parameters such as HIPAA." She notes that GDPR is also important because MyOwnMed is pursuing a CE mark in the European Union, which indicates conformance with health, safety and environmental protection standards for products sold within the European Economic Area.

MyOwnMed takes a hybrid approach to mobile app development using a mix of Native and React Native languages. Its developers rely on code modules to create white-label apps for different higher education institutions by changing out color, icons and activating or deactivating certain capabilities. That agile methodology enabled the MyOwnMed team to build and release the Drexel Health Tracker app in less than two weeks rather than months.

Gisler reached out to NowSecure via the company's website to obtain a demo of its mobile app security testing solution. By the next day, the partners had come to agreement on a mobile application security assessment conducted by NowSecure experts. MyOwnMed provided NowSecure with the app

binaries and less than 24 hours later, the NowSecure Services team delivered a comprehensive report outlining the Drexel Health Tracker app security and privacy vulnerabilities.

"They have a fantastic team and are very responsive — we were happy with both the fast response and the quality of the team," says Gisler. "Everybody was on board to get the work done quickly."

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***"If I can give anybody advice, it would be to include NowSecure as early in the mobile app development process as possible."***  
**— Trang Gisler**  
**Chief Digital Officer, MyOwnMed**

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The mobile app security assessments identified a few medium-level vulnerabilities. In iOS, the issues included data such as a username stored in device files and an App Transport Security issue. The Android app also had some user data stored in device files and the `android:allowBackup='true'` setting was problematic because if someone obtained access to the binary, he or she could back up data from the health app.

NowSecure provided the MyOwnMed team with a clear list of security recommendations as part of its mobile app security assessment report and developers fixed them before releasing the app. Going forward, Gisler says her company seeks to expand the use of this app with Drexel University. In addition, MyOwnMed is working with the National Institutes of Health to assist with remote management of patients in a clinical trial.

Looking back, Gisler advises companies developing mobile apps to engage with a trusted mobile app security expert like NowSecure as early in the process as possible. "We appreciate having this partnership with NowSecure to include security and vulnerability testing as part of our development and release process," she says. "Now we can identify issues earlier, get them fixed and stay compliant versus releasing and then having to deal with ramifications down the road."

NowSecure delivers fully automated mobile app security testing software with speed, accuracy, and efficiency for Agile and DevOps initiatives. Through static, dynamic, and interactive analysis on real Android and iOS devices, NowSecure identifies the broadest array of security threats, compliance gaps, and privacy risks. For more information: [www.nowsecure.com](http://www.nowsecure.com)