

Patient Privacy Announcement

Hutchinson Regional Healthcare System ("HRHS") is committed to the privacy and security of our patients' information. This is an important notice about an incident that affected the privacy of some HRHS patient information.

What Happened?

On October 18, 2016, we learned that an individual responsible for providing billing services for our Horizons Mental Health Center ("Horizons") and for VEP Hutchinson Emergency Medical Group, LLC (our Emergency Department physicians) may have improperly used our electronic record systems from March 1, 2015 to October 27, 2016 to view patient information unrelated to the individual's job duties, including information of patients who received services at locations other than Horizons or the Emergency Department.

The specific types of information potentially viewed by the individual include: Full Name, Date of Birth, Social Security Number, Address, Patient Account Number, Diagnosis, and Clinical Reports such as test results and clinical summaries. Credit card information and bank account information were not accessed by the individual.

Was My Information Affected?

We have already mailed notices to all patients who were affected by this incident. Because a small number of those notices have been returned to us as "undeliverable," we are providing this additional notification. You can contact our Privacy Officer at 1-866-463-2499 to determine if your information was involved in this incident.

How Has HRHS Responded to this Incident?

The individual involved in this incident no longer provides services for any HRHS facility. All HRHS facilities have a comprehensive information security program, and as a result of this incident, we are working to put additional measures in place to minimize the chance that such an incident could occur again. Further, HRHS has offered free credit monitoring services to persons affected by this incident. This incident will be reported to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

What Can I Do to Protect Myself?

We have no indication that any information was accessed for identity fraud purposes. If you were affected by this incident, you may still wish to monitor your financial accounts for suspicious activity. If any suspicious or unusual activity is noticed, you may wish to contact local authorities and file a police report.

Further, any time you concerned that your financial information could be misused, you may also request any of the three credit reporting companies to place a fraud alert on your credit report. They are: Equifax 1-888-766-0008 www.equifax.com; Experian 1-888-397-3742 www.experian.com; and Trans Union 1-

800-680-7289 www.transunion.com.

Who Can I Contact for Additional Information?

You may contact me directly at [1-866-463-2499 with any questions or concerns you may have and to verify whether your notification letter was returned to us as "undeliverable."

We take our role of safeguarding your personal information and assuring it is used in an appropriate manner very seriously, and apologize for this incident.

Sincerely,

Emily Calvillo

HRHS Privacy Officer

Phone: 620-665-2496

Fax: 620-665-2021

Email: PrivacyOfficer@hutchregional.com