

Notice of Disclosure of Protected Health Information

On June 14, 2010, Wright State Physicians was made aware of an unauthorized disclosure of approximately 1,309 patients' protected health information stored on a laptop, which was placed next to a waste can in a Wright State Physicians office and mistakenly discarded by cleaning staff on June 11, 2010.

Immediate steps were taken to investigate the matter, including attempting to retrieve the laptop and identifying the information contained on the laptop. Through the investigation, it was determined that the receptacle containing the trash collected with the laptop was taken to an area landfill and covered with dirt on or about June 16, 2010. The investigation provided no indication the information contained on the laptop, which was password protected, was accessed by anyone or misused.

The laptop contained names of patients treated for vascular conditions in various local hospitals during the past four year period, dates of service, and, in some cases, a brief description of medical care. **The information included on the laptop did not contain any social security numbers, dates of birth, credit card numbers, financial information, address information, or telephone numbers.**

Wright State Physicians maintains many programs to guard against inadvertent or unauthorized disclosures and is taking additional steps to ensure an event of this nature does not recur. It is educating the individuals involved in this event about the proper steps to avoid recurrence. It is also reviewing the implementation of additional security measures that may be put in place to prevent similar incidents of unauthorized acquisition, access, use, or disclosure of protected health information.

If you have questions or you need additional information, you may contact Wright State Physicians at the toll-free number 1- 866-473-0102.