Good Morning- You'll note that the tweets giving rise to this lawsuit against the nurse and the employer did not include the patient's name or face but included enough details for at least some followers to determine the patient's or his family's identity. It's just safest and most respectful not to tweet or post about patients.

OCR has not yet publicly announced its action or comment.

------

The mother of a Lincoln Park man shot last year in Logan Square has filed a lawsuit against the Southwest Side hospital where he was treated before he died, accusing an emergency room nurse of inappropriately putting out information on Twitter.

Among the “degrading, dehumanizing and outrageous” tweets was one that included a photo that shows bandages in a pool of blood in the trauma room where the dead man was treated, according to the suit.

The tweets were sent while 24-year-old Mikal Johnson was being treated for a gunshot wound to the chest at Mount Sinai Hospital early April 8, 2015, according to the suit filed Thursday in Cook County circuit court by his mother Aisha Bilal.

The hospital and nurse are named as defendants. A spokeswoman for Sinai Health System said the suit had not yet been served and declined to comment Friday night on it or the employment status of the woman named as the nurse.

The Twitter handle cited in the suit, @traumanatrix, did not claim any affiliation with Mount Sinai. The account had nearly 2,000 followers before apparently being deactivated Friday night.

Bilal says in the suit that the nurse used it to “recklessly” make accusations that her family attacked staff members. None of the tweets from April 8 name Johnson, but the suit says they “were reasonably identifiable as referring to Mikal Johnson or his family.”

Johnson’s mother says the tweets violated their privacy and “a fundamental ethical obligation of a nurse.” She is seeking more than $100,000 in damages.

------

Jill Bush Raines  
Assistant General Counsel and  
University Privacy Official  
University of Oklahoma  
(405) 271-2033 / 271-1076 fax
May contain privileged or confidential information; may not be shared without permission.