

Subject:

Before you head out for the long weekend...

Date:

Friday, September 02, 2016 3:19:26 PM

Good afternoon, all –

This USC breach article is a good reminder to secure documents containing PHI. Protecting electronic PHI by encrypting devices is a top priority, but we can't forget to secure paper records as well. Please remind the workforce members in your HCC of the following:

1. Do not take documents that contain PHI from the premises solely for your convenience.
2. If you must take documents that contain PHI off the premises for work purposes, the documents must be secured when not attended – in autos, that means putting them in the trunk or cargo hold – not in the passenger compartment.

Thank you for your assistance. Enjoy the holiday weekend!

Jill

LOS ANGELES (KABC) --

There was a data breach at Los Angeles County+USC Medical Center after the hospital said Tuesday somebody stole several things from an employee's car, including lists with personal information of hundreds of patients.

About 700 patients treated at the medical center's neurosurgery clinic between May 10 and July 26 of this year were in jeopardy of having their personal information breached, hospital officials said.

The files, containing personal information on the patients, were stolen when the car break-in occurred on July 8. The stolen information included names, birth dates, medical record numbers and telephone numbers. The hospital added that social security numbers and financial information were not included.

The hospital issued a statement saying affected patients have been notified.

The statement read in part: "We are committed to protecting patient privacy and will take every necessary step to prevent a similar occurrence from happening again... We have provided notice to impacted patients with resources to contact for information."

It was not clear why the files had been left in the employee's car, but a sheriff's investigation was underway.

The hospital said the employee who had the files in his car was re-trained on security procedures.

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