

HIPAA

Monthly Alert OCTOBER 2019

Refresh your memory and review these reminders from previous HIPAA alerts:

How Liberty Staff Can Prevent HIPAA Violations:

1. Never disclose passwords or share login credentials
2. Never leave portable devices or documents unattended
3. Do not text patient information
4. Do not dispose of PHI with regular trash
5. Never access patient records out of curiosity
6. Do not take medical records with you if you leave a job

Think before you post! Read about social media and HIPAA regulations:

Do Not Share PHI on Social Media (Including Photos and Videos)

Sending a tweet, posting to Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, LinkedIn, Reddit, and other social websites containing personally identifiable information of a patient is a serious HIPAA violation. This includes PHI and gossiping about a patient in a closed group, on a private post, or sharing a story.

PHI includes health information, photographs, and videos. In such cases, it doesn't matter if the photograph does not include the patient's name. Patients can easily be identified from the photograph.

Selfies taken at work and posted to social media accounts violate HIPAA rules if patients are included in the photograph if prior consent has not been obtained in writing. It is also a HIPAA violation if PHI can be seen in the photographs (i.e. nursing board with patient names, documents and charts etc.).

Inappropriate sharing of PHI can attract significant financial penalties for the covered entity, termination of employment contracts, loss of licenses, and lawsuits.

If a HIPAA violation is discovered in your program/unit, report the incident immediately to your supervisor or Liberty's privacy officer to ensure prompt action is taken to limit harm.

Reference: <https://www.hipaajournal.com/employees-prevent-hipaa-violations/>

**Please look for next month's HIPAA alert delivered through your email.
You can also find the HIPAA monthly alerts on Employee Self Service (ESS).**

**Should you have any questions regarding this alert please contact: Judith Ann Shields
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