



Seton Medical Center Harker Heights notifies patients who may have been affected by data security incident

Harker Heights, Texas (October 14, 2022) – Seton Medical Center Harker Heights (SMCHH) recently notified patients that some of their protected health information may have been accessed due to a security incident experienced by one of its vendors.

SMCHH was notified on August 19, 2022 that the vendor experienced a phishing incident which resulted in an unauthorized agent accessing the email accounts of two of the vendor's employees. The vendor has represented to SMCHH that it has thoroughly reviewed the affected email accounts to determine what protected health information may have been exposed, conducted an internal investigation, and engaged a digital forensics firm to review and determine the scope of unauthorized access. Based on its review, the vendor determined that the unauthorized agent could have accessed or viewed the following types of patient information: (1) first and last name, (2) date of birth, (3) medical record number, and/or (4) certain clinical information.

The information did **not** contain social security numbers, addresses, or any financial or credit card information. This breach only affected the vendor's separately-maintained system, and the vendor immediately changed passwords of the affected email accounts upon becoming aware of the unauthorized access. This breach did not occur on any SMCHH information systems and did **not** affect SMCHH's medical records.

The vendor has no indication that any protected health information has been misused. Regardless, SMCHH encourages individuals to take precautions to protect the security of their information. As an additional precaution, to reduce the risk of fraud or identity theft, SMCHH has offered affected individuals a one-year membership in Experian's® IdentityWorksSM at no cost. This product provides superior identity protection and resolution of identity theft.

Individuals may contact SMCHH to determine whether their information was affected by calling **(888) 401-0572**.

SMCHH takes information security and privacy very seriously and deeply regrets this situation and any inconvenience it may cause.