



323 North Shore Drive
Suite 400
Pittsburgh, PA 15212
phone 412-822-3316
fax 412-822-8275

April 20, 2017

James M. DeNofrio
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. DeNofrio

I am writing to you as the Network Director of the VA Healthcare VISN4. On February 13, 2017 you filed a complaint with the Privacy Office noting that the Administrative Investigative Board (AIB) file that you received copies of contained multiple copies of your Protected Health Information (PHI). Also it was identified that the AIB file was maintained on a SharePoint site that multiple individuals had access to. Upon investigation of your report it was determined that there was a disc disclosed to two individuals who requested copies of the AIB file as part of their discovery process involving the same AIB.

At present the investigation included the questioning of the ten individuals that were mentioned on your complaint and twelve individuals who had access to the AIB December 2015 SharePoint site. All information has been removed from the SharePoint and education has been provided regarding the placement of sensitive information on a SharePoint site. The Office of General Counsel is retrieving the discs that contain PHI and providing the requesters with a redacted copy. The AIB members are removing documentation that does not pertain to the AIB investigation.

We are notifying you so that you may choose to take appropriate steps to protect yourself against identity theft. If you receive phone calls, e-mails, or other communications asking for your personally identifiable information (PII), such as your date of birth or mailing address, you should verify the identity of the requester and the purpose and validity of the request before deciding whether to provide any information. If you decide to provide information in response to such a request, you should provide only as much information as you consider appropriate and necessary.

Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, you have the right to access your credit report for free every 12 months from one or more of the three (3) national credit reporting companies. You may request the report online at www.annualcreditreport.com, by calling 1-877-322-8228, or by mailing your request to: Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348-5281. More information about the free annual credit report is available from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at: <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/freereports/index.shtml>

Additional information about the various precautions you can take is available by calling the FTC at its toll free number, 1-877-438-4338, or by visiting its website, <http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/feature-0014-identity-theft>. Information about your privacy rights is also available in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Notice of Privacy Practices. You may obtain a paper copy of this notice from your local VHA health care facility or download an electronic copy at <http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pubID=1089>.

If you have specific questions concerning this letter, please contact [REDACTED], Privacy Officer of VA Healthcare VISN 4, by calling 412-822-3320 or writing to:

VA Healthcare-VISN 4
[REDACTED]
323 North Shore Drive, Suite 400
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

If you are concerned that your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with VHA by contacting Stephania Griffin, JD, RHIA, CIPP/G – VHA Privacy, or by writing to the VHA Privacy Officer, VHA Privacy Office, (10P2C1) Office of Informatics and Analytics, Health Information Governance, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20420. You may also file a complaint with the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights, at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/complaints/index.html>. You will not be penalized or retaliated against for filing a complaint, because it is your right under the law.

VA takes our obligation to honor and serve America's Veterans very seriously. We believe it is important for you to be fully informed of any potential risk to you and apologize for any inconvenience or concern this situation may cause.

Sincerely,

4/20/2017

X *Michael D. Adelman, MD*

Signed by: people
Michael D. Adelman, MD
Network Director-VISN 4