



*Jefferson
Medical*

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Media Contact:
Kathryn Gilchrist
601/790-2881
kgilchrist@gilchristdonnell.com

Privacy Events at Jefferson Medical Associates

Jefferson Medical Associates (JMA) of Laurel, Mississippi, has advised its patients of privacy events that may have compromised certain personal information. The events are believed to be the result of criminal activity.

On approximately June 1, 2016, an unauthorized individual not affiliated with JMA accessed a database containing a limited history of prescriptions and other information for a small percentage of patients. Based on the investigation so far, it appears that the individual unlawfully accessed and copied one of the practice's databases which included patient names, dates of birth, social security numbers, addresses, and phone numbers, as well as limited prescription information associated with their treatment at JMA, including drug names, dosages, and refill quantities. JMA has secured the database, disabled the ability for remote connections, and is implementing additional data security measures to prevent future incidents.

At this time, investigators do not believe the individual who accessed the database has used the information acquired. Instead, it is believed that the individual accessed the database only to demonstrate his ability to do so. Through JMA's investigation of this issue, it also has learned that other remote connections were made to this database from unknown sources at various times between March 25, 2014, and June 1, 2016. JMA has not been able to determine whether any of these other connections actually resulted in any acquisition, access, use, or disclosure of patient information, but it is possible.

JMA has mailed notice to all potentially affected patients of this incident and is offering one year of credit monitoring and identity protection services through AllClear ID™ at no cost to the affected patients. In cooperation with law enforcement, JMA is continuing to investigate this incident.

“We sincerely regret any concern or inconvenience this incident has caused or may cause any of our valued patients,” said Robby Graham, JMA's Administrator. “We take the privacy of their health information as seriously as we do their care. We want to assure our patients and the community we serve that we will continue to work both to understand this incident and to implement measures to further strengthen our data security.”

Those who believe they may have been affected by this incident should contact JMA's dedicated incident response hotline at (855) 260-2771.

Jefferson Medical Associates, in Laurel, Mississippi, is one of the area's largest private, multi-specialty medical groups. Its physicians provide primary care, as well as sub-specialty medical care for residents of south central Mississippi.