

HIPAA

Monthly Alert

APRIL 2019

A Medical Center Failed to Terminate Former Employee's Access to Electronic Protected Health Information (ePHI)

A medical center has agreed to pay \$111,400 to the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and to adopt a substantial corrective action plan to settle potential violations of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy and Security Rules. The settlement resolves a complaint alleging that a former employee from a medical center continued to have remote access to the medical center's web-based scheduling calendar, which contained patients' ePHI, after separation of employment. OCR's investigation revealed that this medical center impermissibly disclosed the ePHI of 557 individuals to its former employee and to the web-based scheduling calendar vendor without a HIPAA required business associate agreement in place.

A Physicians' Group Shares Protected Health Information (PHI) with Unknown Vendor without a Business Associate Agreement

A physician's group has agreed to pay \$500,000 to the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and to adopt a substantial corrective action plan to settle potential violations of the HIPAA Privacy and Security Rules. This physician group shared PHI with a vendor without a business associate agreement.

Allergy Practice Pays \$125,000 to Settle Doctor's Disclosure of Patient Information to a Reporter

A patient of an allergy practice contacted a local television station to speak about a dispute that had occurred between the patient and an allergy doctor. The reporter subsequently contacted the doctor for comment and the doctor impermissibly disclosed the patient's protected health information to the reporter.

Reference

<https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/compliance-enforcement/agreements/allergyassociates/index.html>

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).

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