

Name of Policy: Reporting of security breach of protected health information including personal health information			
Policy Number: 3364015		Effective date September 13, 2023	
Approving Officer: President		Original effective date: November 15, 2010	
Responsible Agent: Privacy Officer and Director of Health Information Management			
Scope: Hybrid and affiliated covered entity of University of Toledo			
Keywords			
	<input type="checkbox"/> New policy		<input type="checkbox"/> Minor/technical revision of existing policy
	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision of existing policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X	<input type="checkbox"/> Reaffirmation of existing policy

(A) Policy statement

The hybrid and affiliated ~~at~~ unsecured PHI is subject to a breach.

(B) Purpose of policy

The purpose of this policy is to outline the processes and procedures

1. Determine whether the security ~~or~~ of PHI has been compromised
2. Ensure compliance with notification and reporting requirements

A report of an unauthorized use, access, disclosure or ~~acquisition~~ of information which has occurred ~~or~~ which is reasonably believed to have occurred, investigated, notifications provided, the incident(s) reported in compliance with federal and state law. Please refer to policy # 336401, Release of Health Information for guidance for permissible uses and disclosure of PHI or copy at ~~the~~

(C) Procedure

- (1) Initial

ii.

The privacy officer will notify appropriate administrative executives, the chief compliance officer, after a conclusive determination that a breach occurred.

(b) Notification to individuals

- (i) Timelines Each individual whose PHI has been breached or is reasonably believed to have been breached must be notified. Notification of a breach shall be provided without unreasonable delay and in no case later than 60 calendar days from the date referenced in (C)(3)(a)(ii) above except where a law enforcement agency or official has requested a delay.
- (ii) Contents of notification Notifications shall be written in plain language and include to the extent possible the following elements:
 - (a) A brief description of what happened, including the date of the breach and the date of discovery of the breach (C)(3)(a)(ii) above if known.
 - (b) A description of the types of PHI in the breach such as full name, social security number, date of birth, home address, account number, diagnosis, disability code and types of information
 - (c) Any steps the individual should take to protect themselves from potential harm.
 - (d) A brief description of what VCI is doing to investigate the breach, mitigate harm and protect against further breaches
 - (e) Contact information for individuals to ask questions and learn additional information. The contact information shall include: a tollfree telephone number, email address, web site or postal address.
- (iii) Method of notification Notification must be in writing and delivered by first class mail to the individual's last known address. If the individual is known to be deceased, the notification must be sent to address of the next of kin or legally recognized personal representative. If the individual has agreed to receive electronic notice and has not withdrawn such agreement, notification by electronic mail is appropriate. Notification may be provided in more mailings as information becomes available.
- (iv) Substitute notice In a situation where there is insufficient or out of date contact information that precludes written notification substitute notification must be provided. Substitute notification must be reasonably calculated to reach the individual. Substitute notice is not required in a case where there is insufficient or out of date contact information for the next of kin or legally recognized representative.

Notification must be submitted online using the [HHS website](#) following the instructions.

- (ii) If the breach affects less than five hundred individuals, the university will report such occurrences to the secretary of health and human services at approximately the same time the individual is notified. The university will maintain sufficient documentation of the occurrence and ensure that the s

- (d) Encrypted PHI through the use of an algorithmic process has been transformed into a form in which there is a low probability of assigning meaning without use of a confidential process or key and such process or key has not been breached.
- (e) Law enforcement official, officer or employee of any agency or authority of the United States, a state, a territory, a political subdivision of a state or territory, or an Indian tribe who is empowered by law to:
 - (i) Investigate or conduct an official inquiry into a potential violation of law or
 - (ii)]01 8 -0

Approved by:

Gregory Postel, MD