

ACTIVE PRIVACY PROTECTION

Six Things You Can Do to Prevent Medical ID Theft

Millions of medical records containing PHI (protected health information) were involved in privacy/security breaches in the United States in the last few years. No wonder the FBI reports that identity theft is the fastest growing crime.

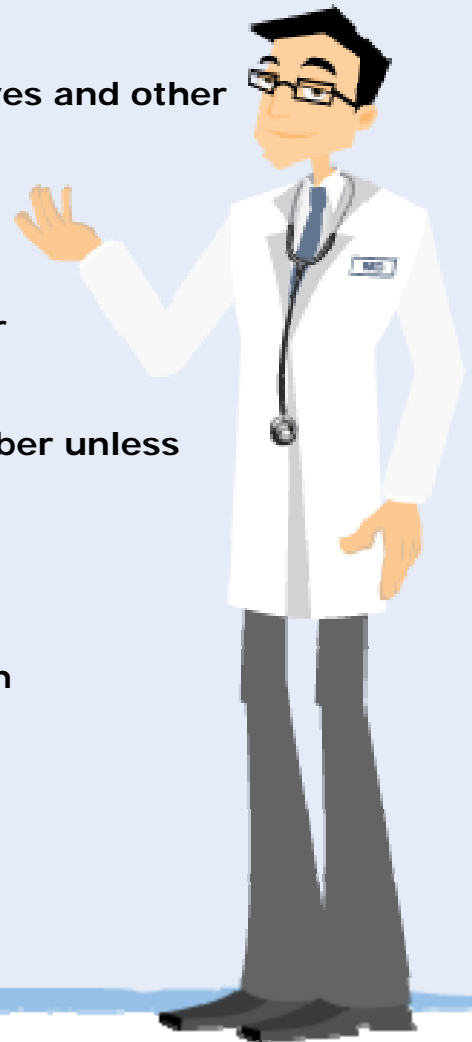
If you thought that hackers want only financial or credit card information, think again. Nearly 6% of American adults have been a victim of medical identity theft, and the average cost of correct each problem was \$20,160.**

Let's prevent medical identity theft by protecting our patients' PHI.

Specifically...

1. **Verify an individual's identity and authority to receive PHI before disclosing it (e.g. over the phone & in person).**
2. **Password protect laptops, smartphones, flash drives and other storage devices, and encrypt PHI stored on them.**
3. **Contact your IS department to remove PHI before discarding/donating computers.**
4. **Shred documents that contain PHI when no longer needing them. *Do not discard them in the trash.***
5. **Do not provide a patient's full Social Security Number unless the requestor is authorized to receive it.**
6. **Do not use PHI in an email or text message.**

**Not Being an Identity Theft Victim
is a Priceless Gift!**



**The Ponemon Institute's National Study on Medical Identity Theft