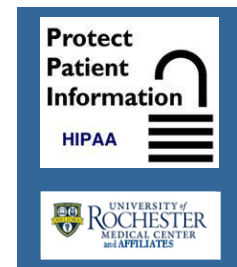# HIPAA HIGHLIGHTS

October 2024

National Cyber Security Awareness Month

Protect the House – Securing Healthcare Data

The healthcare industry has been under attack from cybercriminals in the first half of 2024, with several major data breaches reported. Among the most notable are the ransomware attacks on Ascension and Change Healthcare, which caused significant disruptions to patient care and potentially affected millions of individuals. While the exact number of individuals impacted by these breaches remains to be determined, it is clear that the healthcare industry is facing a growing threat from cyberattacks.

October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month, a global initiative dedicated to educating individuals and organizations about cybersecurity threats and best practices. This month, let's prioritize Protecting Our House by understanding the risks and taking proactive steps to safeguard our personal and business data by:

- **Protecting business and personal information:** Our data is valuable to cybercriminals. By practicing good cybersecurity habits, we can protect ourselves and the business.
- **Promoting best practices:** It encourages people to adopt safe online habits, such as using strong passwords, being cautious of phishing attempts, and regularly updating software.
- **Staying aware of rising cyber threats:** As technology advances, so do cyber threats. Phishing scams, malware attacks, and ransomware are becoming more sophisticated and frequent.
- **Safeguarding our business:** Cyberattacks can have devastating consequences for businesses, leading to financial losses, reputational damage, and operational disruptions.
- **Encouraging action:** It encourages individuals and businesses to take proactive steps to protect themselves from cyber threats.

Cybersecurity Awareness Month Activities

We have scheduled several activities, some of which you can enter to win gift cards and/or lunch with your favorite IT leader. Visit the Cybersecurity Awareness Month page to learn more about the month's activities including:

1. **Attending the next Ask Security Anything Session**
   - Tuesday, 10/3, 9:00 am – 9:45 am, where we'll be discussing simulated phish testing and phishing prevention.
2. **Entering to win prizes like gift cards or lunch with your favorite IT leaders**
   - Play Security related educational games
   - Send a copy of your completed game to securityawarenessmonth@ur.rochester.edu to be entered in the drawing at the end of October.
3. **Watching Security Awareness Training Videos in MyPath to win prizes**
   - Topics include Phishing, Strong Passwords, Mobile Device and Cloud Safety

Where can I find more information about Information Security?

ISD Privacy & Security Intranet: https://sites.mc.rochester.edu/departments/it-security-privacy-program/
Information Security: https://tech.rochester.edu/security/
Simulated Phish Testing: https://tech.rochester.edu/phishing-test/
Phishing Education: https://tech.rochester.edu/security/phishing-education/
Scams: https://tech.rochester.edu/security/scams/

For any questions on this topic or any others regarding HIPAA, please contact your Privacy Officer or HIPAA Security Official.