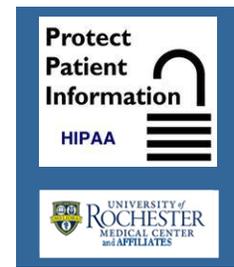


HIPAA HIGHLIGHTS

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The Risk We Don't Talk About Enough: Oversharing in the Workplace

When we think about privacy and security in healthcare, we often focus on hackers, phishing emails, and lost devices. But one of the most common risks doesn't involve sophisticated technology at all - it's simple oversharing.

In a busy hospital environment, collaboration is constant. We consult in hallways, message colleagues, share screenshots, forward emails, and discuss complex cases. These interactions are essential to patient care. However, without realizing it, we may sometimes share more information than is necessary.

A quick photo of a whiteboard for convenience might capture a patient's name in the corner. A group email sent broadly, "just in case", may expose details to individuals who do not need them. A social media post about an unusual or meaningful case, even without a name, can sometimes include enough context for someone to identify the patient.

Even internally, the "minimum necessary" principle still applies. Accessing or sharing information out of curiosity, for informal teaching, or in casual conversation, can put patient privacy - and our organization - at risk.

Here are a few simple reminders:

- Pause before sharing. Ask yourself: *Does this person need this information to do their job?*
- Be aware of your surroundings. Elevators, hallways, and cafeterias are not private spaces.
- Double-check recipients before sending emails or messages.
- Keep patient details off personal devices and social media, even if identifiers are removed.

Protecting privacy isn't only about preventing cyberattacks. It's about everyday habits. By being thoughtful in our conversations and communications, we uphold patient trust and strengthen a culture of professionalism across our health system.

For any questions about this topic or any other HIPAA-related matters, please contact your [Privacy Officer](#) or [HIPAA Security Official](#).