Eisenhower Medical Center Reports Theft of Computer and Television

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RANCHO MIRAGE, Calif., March 30, 2011 /PRNewswire/ -- Eisenhower Medical Center (EMC) has implemented additional security procedures and protocols to help ensure patient privacy and security after a hospital computer and a television were stolen in a burglary on Friday, March 11.

The computer was password protected but not encrypted. It contained an electronic index with limited patient information used by EMC. The information in the index file included, patient names, ages, dates of birth, the last four digits of the Social Security numbers and the hospital's Medical Record Numbers (MRNs).

The computer did not contain any information regarding the patients' medical conditions or treatments at EMC or any other medical records. Additionally, there was no financial, bank, credit card or health insurance information on the computer. The information related only to EMC and not to any other healthcare providers on the campus.

The theft occurred at about 6 p.m. Friday, March 11, 2011 and EMC staff discovered a television missing shortly afterward. But the computer was not found to be missing until EMC personnel reported for work on Monday, March 14, 2011. At this time, EMC has no reason to believe that the computer was stolen for the information that it contained.

The theft has been reported to law enforcement, and EMC has been cooperating with the investigation. Notification letters are being mailed to all affected patients beginning today.

EMC has provided high quality, compassionate care for nearly 40 years. The safeguarding of our patients' information is a top priority. We immediately took steps to ensure the safety of patient information. EMC's safeguard requirements and policies and procedures for computers were reviewed, and patient index data was moved from individual computers to our secure data center. To the extent that the data may be needed outside of the secure data center, it will be encrypte
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