
NEWS RELEASE

Mercy Love County Patients Notified of Data Security Incident

Marietta, Oklahoma (Sept. 19, 2017) – On June 23, 2017, Mercy Health Love County Hospital and Clinic discovered that a former employee stole a small number of patient records and a laptop from a hospital storage unit. Ten patients were affected, all of whom were immediately notified of the incident. The matter was initially investigated the Love County Sheriff's Office. The investigation revealed that the former employee and an additional suspect used information belonging to the patients and other persons, including names and Social Security numbers, to fraudulently obtain credit cards.

Upon learning of the incident, Mercy took immediate steps to secure the hospital storage unit and is cooperating with the Love County Sheriff's Office to hold the perpetrators accountable. The Love County Sheriff's Office is being assisted in its investigation by the United States Postal Inspection Service, which investigates the use of the United States mail system to obtain fraudulent credit cards, and the United States Secret Service, which investigates the fraudulent acquisition of credit cards. Mercy will fully cooperate with both of these investigative agencies as well.

Mercy is providing all affected patients with one year of credit monitoring and identity restoration services at no cost. Although there is no evidence that files belonging to patients aside from the ten patients originally identified were accessed or acquired without authorization, Mercy is nonetheless informing the public of the incident. If any additional patients believe that they have been affected by the incident, they should contact AllClear ID at 1-855-742-6046.

"We are very upset that this occurred, as we take the privacy and security of our patient information very seriously," said Richard Barker, Mercy Health Love County Hospital and Clinic Administrator. "We are taking steps to secure all patient information to prevent anything similar from happening again, and we will do all we can to see that the criminals are held accountable."

Background on Mercy Health Love County Hospital and Clinic:

Mercy Health Love County Hospital and Clinic, formerly known as Love County Health Center, has been managed by Mercy since 2012. With eight primary care providers, 135 co-workers and 25 beds, the hospital serves acutely ill or injured patients as well as those needing skilled nursing who qualify for care under the hospital's licensure as a critical care hospital.

[Mercy](#), named one of the top five large U.S. health systems in 2017 by [Truven](#), an IBM Watson Health company, serves millions annually. Mercy includes 44 acute care and specialty (heart, children's, orthopedic and rehab) hospitals, more than 700 physician practices and outpatient facilities, 40,000 co-workers and more than 2,000 Mercy Clinic physicians in Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma. Mercy also has outreach ministries in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.

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