

Module 8: Course Post-Assessment Case Study

Scenario

General Hospital is a fictional hospital that is a covered entity under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). On January 12, 2010, a portable computer disk drive was seized in conjunction with an arrest made by a law enforcement agency in a state neighboring your home state.

The information on the drive was not encrypted and law enforcement authorities were able to easily access the contents of the disk drive, which included insurance claim forms and medical records for approximately 350,000 residents within your state. The law enforcement authorities identified the disk drive as the property of General Hospital.

When initially contacted by law enforcement, General Hospital representatives claimed to be unaware that the disk drive had ever been out of the hospital's possession. However, after a local news outlet reported on the incident, certain General Hospital staff members came forward and told reporters that General Hospital did know about the missing disk drive and "covered up" the loss.

National media then picked up the story because of the large number of individuals affected across several states. Further investigative reports revealed that the disk drive had been stolen from the home of a General Hospital human resources administrator in early December 2009.

Residents within your state whose individually identifiable information was on the drive were never notified by General Hospital that their health information had been exposed.