Privacy Matters

Unintentional Privacy Breaches

Most of us think we can easily recognize a privacy breach, like a snooping incident. There are some privacy breaches, however, that are less obvious and harder to identify. Consider these examples:

- Disclosing more PHI than necessary to another healthcare worker
- Opening the chart of the wrong person
- Sending PHI to the wrong printer at a different location
- Capturing PHI in a CIS screenshot and sharing it with ITSS for tech support before confirming they require it

To help prevent these types of unintentional privacy breaches, take the following steps:

- Confirm multiple patient identifiers
- Slow down and confirm all information is correct, including email addresses, fax numbers, printers, etc.
- Ask yourself whether all recipients have a 'Need to Know'
- Consider the minimum amount of information required to serve the purpose

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