



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Governor Tony Evers / Secretary Jared Hoy

RE: Protected Health Information Breach Notice

On April 22, 2024, the Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC) became aware of a breach of certain protected health information (PHI) of some former and current Persons in Our Care (PIOC).

DOC has determined PHI of some Persons in Our Care (PIOC) was inadvertently disclosed in a DOC Research and Policy Unit document without patient authorization. During the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond, from March 2020 through Feb. 2024, this document was emailed to between 30 and 100 job candidates as part of a skills test. The document included your DOC # (labeled "PersonID"), date of birth, and the name of a treatment facility. Your name was not included in the document, but your DOC # could have been used to link you to a treatment facility. No other treatment or other health care records about you were disclosed.

Prior to the pandemic, dating back to approximately 2016, additional job applicants were also given the document, but they did not retain it or receive it by email, except under rare circumstances.

Under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, which is known as HIPAA, disclosing you were at a mental health or Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment facility without your written authorization is a violation of HIPAA, and DOC is required to notify you about this breach of PHI.

If you released from one the below treatment facilities during the period from 05/02/2000 to 12/26/2012, you have been identified as an individual affected by this HIPAA breach.

- Wisconsin Resource Center
- Drug Abuse Correctional Center
- Chippewa Valley Treatment Facility
- Flambeau Correctional Center

The DOC has taken the following steps to protect your personal information:

- When discovered, DOC immediately stopped using the document and permanently removed all PHI from it.
- Notification of the breach of PHI has been reported to the federal Department of Health and Human Services.
- The DOC will comply with any and all federal and state requirements relating to the disclosed PHI.

The DOC apologizes for any inconvenience this situation may cause; your privacy is very important to us and we will continue to monitor this situation. Any questions or concerns may be addressed to DOC's postal address: PO Box 7925, 3099 East Washington Ave., Madison, WI 53704. ATTN: HIPAA Privacy Officer.

Sincerely,

Linda Eggert
WI DOC HIPAA/Privacy Officer