Stony Brook
Medicine

Protecting patient health information has become increasingly challenging as the security threat landscape escalates.

With the requirement to transform medical records to an electronic format, making immediate access to data a reality, we need to “step up” our security processes. Our protective efforts must extend beyond written policies to the implementation of tools which proactively monitor compliance with our HIPAA related policies and procedures.

Everyone in the organization is expected to understand their responsibility to protect patient information. We all need to understand the risks associated with access to patient data, as well as how to appropriately access, transfer and store data.

To assist our efforts in combating serious threats such as phishing attacks and credential misuse/compromise, potentially allowing unauthorized and/or inappropriate access to our organization’s data, we have acquired and will be implementing on January 1, 2018 a new patient privacy intelligence technology called FairWarning®.

This technology establishes a rapid response time to inappropriate access by automating monitoring activities in the organization’s clinical applications. Monitoring activities include:

- Accessing medical records outside your normal scope of business
- Detecting shared or compromised credentials
- Stealing patient data

These new measures are designed to protect the integrity of our health information as well as prevent any harm from coming to our patients or workforce. This monitoring program gives our patients the assurance that we are committed to protecting their privacy.

We are asking for you to partner with us to provide better patient care through privacy by only accessing patient information when you have a legitimate business reason to do so.

Additionally, protect your password. Never share your credentials (username and password) with others. You are responsible for any access activity that occurs with your credentials. If you need to leave a workstation (PC, Mac, Laptop) unattended, either lock it or log off before walking away.