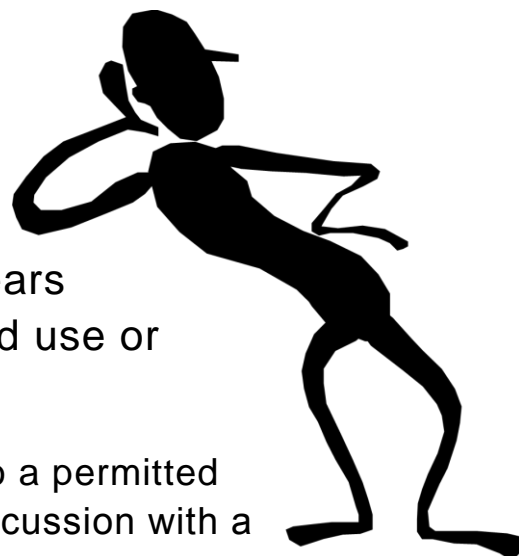


Incidentally...



An incidental disclosure of patient information occurs when a third party overhears or sees patient information during a permitted use or disclosure.

An incidental disclosure is one that is secondary to a permitted use or disclosure. An example is a physician's discussion with a patient in an Emergency Department (permitted) where other patients or family members may overhear (incidental).

*The Privacy Rule permits incidental disclosures of protected health information to occur **when we use reasonable safeguards** to protect patient privacy and maintain the minimum necessary standard. Reasonable safeguards include lowering your voice to avoid being overheard, closing curtains during interactions with patients, turning charts facing the door of the examination room and turning your computer screen to guard privacy.*

Avoid:

- Discussing patient care in the cafeteria
- Leafing through laboratory results while in a seminar
- Reviewing procedure results with family members in the waiting area
- Leaving patient records in areas where the public can view them
- Leaving computers logged in and unattended, with screens visible to others

If you suspect a violation of patient privacy, you have an obligation to report it. You may report to:

- Your manager,
- Human Resources,
- The Privacy Office:
 - Sheila Wrobel, at 402-559-6767, swrobel@unmc.edu
 - Deb Bishop at 402-559-5136, dbishop@unmc.edu

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