



INQUIRIES CONTACT:  
903-408-1675  
john.heatherly@huntregional.org

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***Hunt Memorial Hospital District Notifies Patients of Expanded Data Security Incident***

**Greenville** – Hunt Memorial Hospital District has notified patients of an expanded data security incident.

On August 14, 2019, Hunt Memorial Hospital District determined the personal information of patients of Hunt Regional Medical Center (“Hunt Regional”) may have been compromised in a sophisticated cyber attack. Hunt Regional initially learned from law enforcement on May 14, 2019, that the information of a small number of its patients was compromised in the targeted cyber attack dating back to May of 2018. During the incident, hackers gained access to patient personal information in what Hunt Regional believed at the time to be a limited area of its network. Hunt Regional’s investigation up to that point indicated only a subset of its patients was affected by this incident. At that time, Hunt Regional sent notification letters to all those individuals whose personal information Hunt Regional suspected had been compromised.

Following the discovery of this incident, Hunt Regional engaged independent cyber forensics experts to analyze its systems and investigate the full impact of the unauthorized access. During this investigation, Hunt Regional determined on August 14, 2019, that it could not rule out the possibility that the personal information of additional individuals may have also been accessible. Out of an abundance of caution, Hunt Regional recently notified all patients whose information may have been impacted. Because the hackers gained access to Hunt Regional’s network, the hackers were potentially able to access patient medical records which contain information including patient names, telephone numbers, Social Security numbers, dates of birth, race, and religious preferences. We have no indication that any financial information was impacted.

Hunt Regional recently sent notification letters to those patients who may have been affected by this incident. The letters informed those patients that Hunt Regional is offering identity theft protection services through ID Experts® to provide them with MyIDCare™. MyIDCare™ services include: twelve months of credit monitoring, a \$1,000,000 insurance reimbursement policy, and fully managed ID theft recovery services. Hunt Regional encourages affected individuals to remain vigilant by monitoring their credit reports and to enroll in the free MyIDCare™ services offering. More information can be found in the letters provided to those patients who may have been affected.

Hunt Regional is cooperating with the FBI in its investigation of this incident. Though a variety of administrative, physical, and technical security measures were in place prior to this incident, Hunt Regional has also retained the services of cyber security professionals to aid Hunt Regional in implementing additional safeguards to strengthen data security within Hunt Regional’s computer environment. Hunt Regional continues to assess its privacy and security controls to prevent future breaches.

Hunt Regional takes its patients’ privacy and the security of information very seriously and deeply regrets any inconvenience this incident may have caused. Patients should call 833-297-6403 or visit <https://ide.myidcare.com/huntmemorialhospital> for additional information.

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