



On May 12, 2017, Little River Healthcare discovered that a briefcase, containing 18 paper charts and a laptop containing patient electronic medical records was stolen from a provider's locked vehicle. The theft was reported to the local police department. The stolen briefcase and laptop contained patient names, dates of birth, dates of service, and medical history, but did not contain information such as social security numbers, driver's license numbers or patient home addresses. The laptop was password protected and Little River's IT department has verified that it has not been turned on. It is likely that the computer has been erased by the thieves for resale purposes and **Little River has no reason to believe that any electronic data was actually accessed by the thieves.**

In compliance with Texas and Federal law, patients affected by the security breach are being notified. Although Little River Healthcare has no reason to believe that patient information has been compromised, the company is taking steps to eliminate or minimize any potential harm that could be caused by the theft. Little River Healthcare has offered its resources to affected patients and encouraged patients to contact their financial institutions and credit agencies to prevent unauthorized access to personal accounts.

Little River Healthcare has safeguards in place to ensure the privacy and security of all patient health information. Steps are underway to further improve the security of its operations and eliminate future risk. The company is strengthening training for providers regarding the transfer and storage of patient records, the level of security software on its mobile devices, and existing mobile device policies and procedures. "Little River Healthcare understands the importance of protecting patient data, and takes this responsibility very seriously," said Ryan Downton, Chief Legal Officer. "We will do all we can to work with our patients whose personal information may have been compromised, to help them through the process. We regret that this incident has occurred, and we are committed to doing all that is within our ability to prevent any future occurrences."

Patients may visit Little River Healthcare's website, at www.lrhealthcare.com, for further information, call the company's toll-free number at 833-609-5366, or contact either of the following Little River Healthcare staff:

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