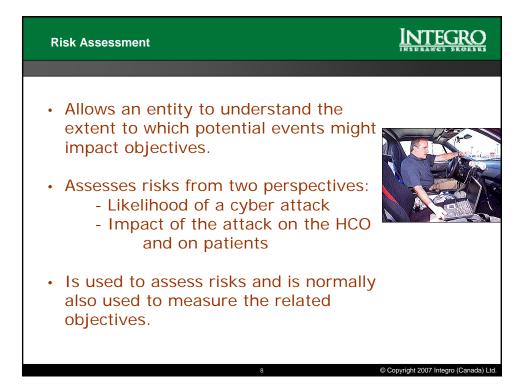
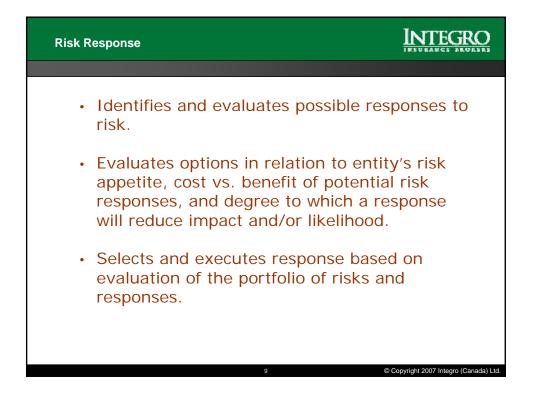
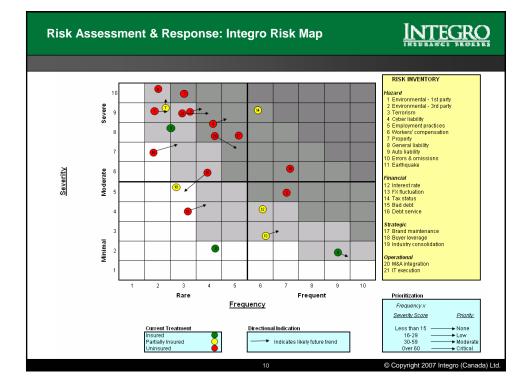
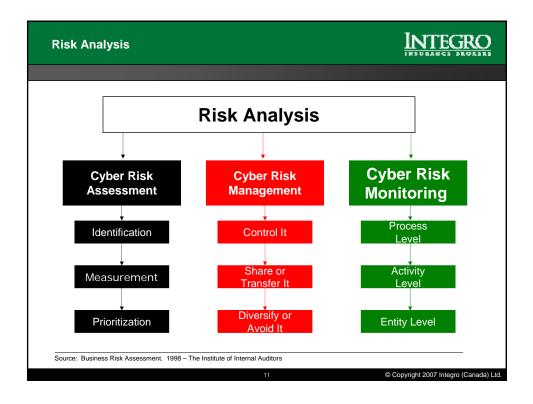


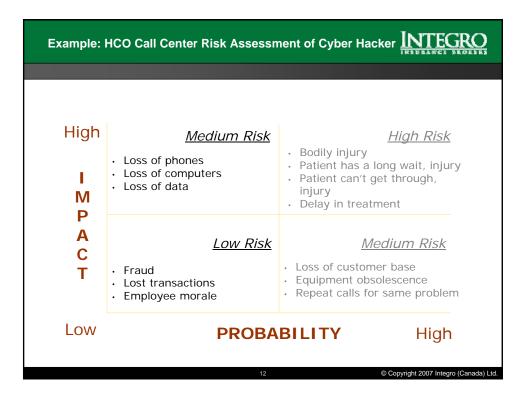
Notification Events					INTEGRO
Notice of Breach	Year	Records Lost/Stolen	Incidents Reported	Incidents Per Week	States with Notification Laws
	2007*	65,149,214	184	7.36	36
	2006	49,679,260	346	6.65	30
	2005	55,986,942	138	2.65	11
	2004	31,895,900	21	0.40	1
	2003	6,405,000	11	0.21	1
	2002	4,960	3	0.06	0
	2001	157,250	9	0.17	0
	* The first s	six months of 2007			
ttp://etiolated.org/statisti	<u>cs</u>	7			opyright 2007 Integro (Canad

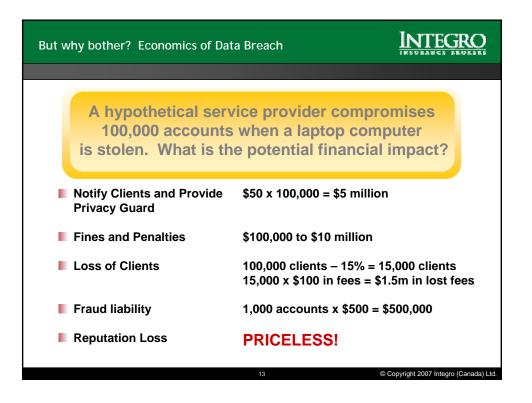


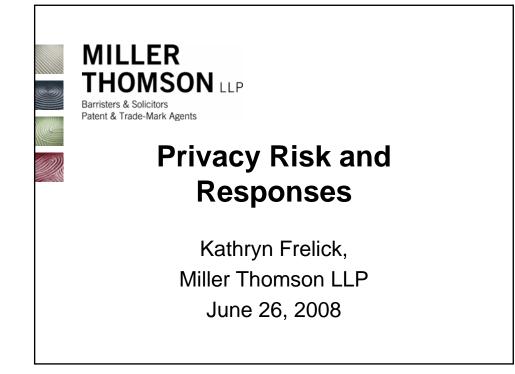


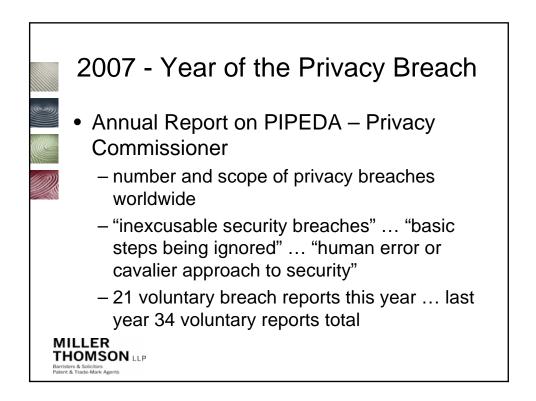


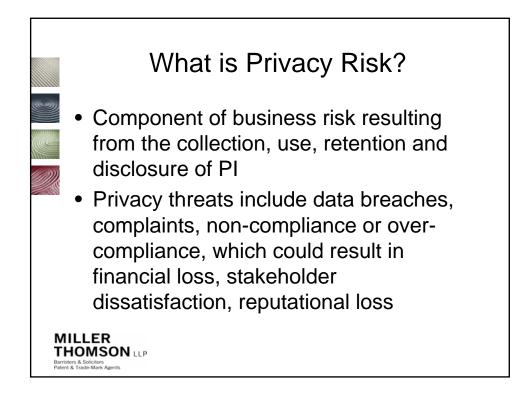


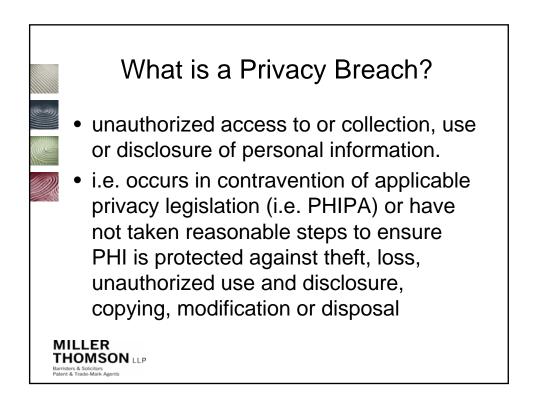


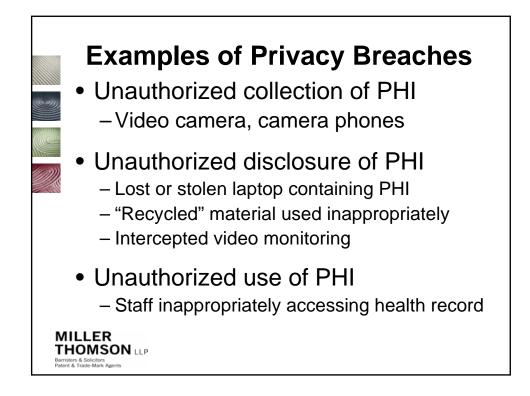


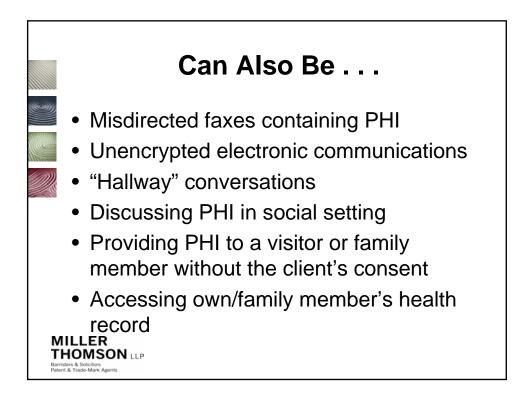


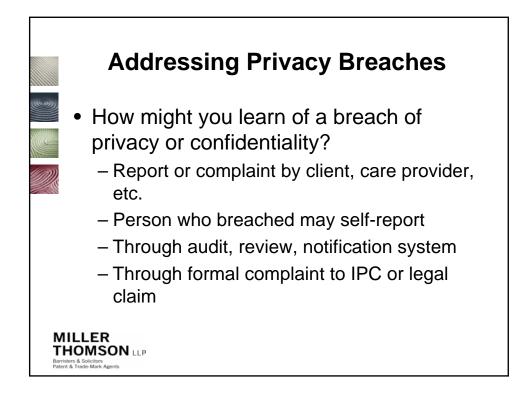


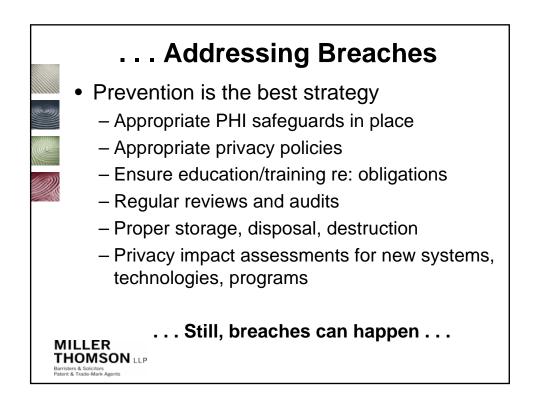


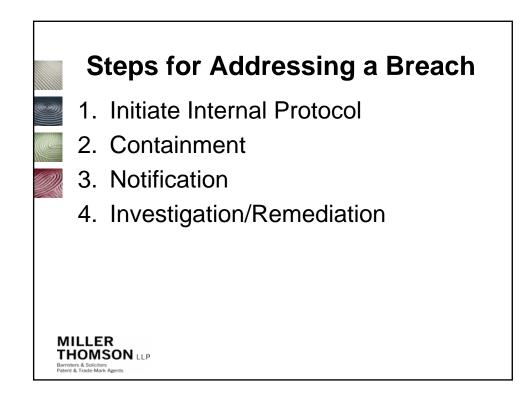


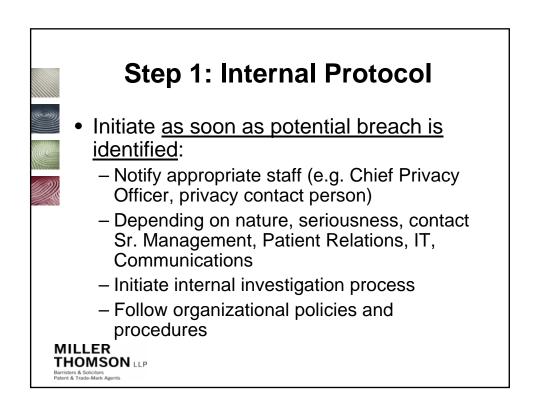


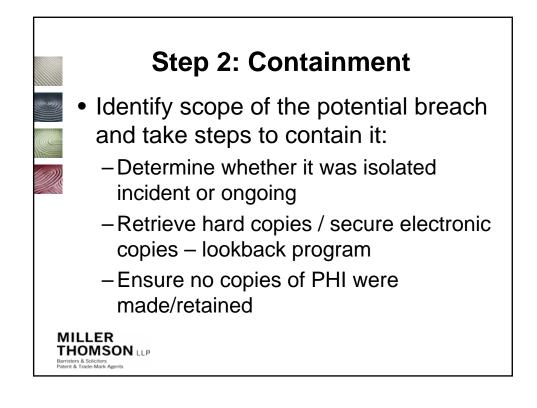


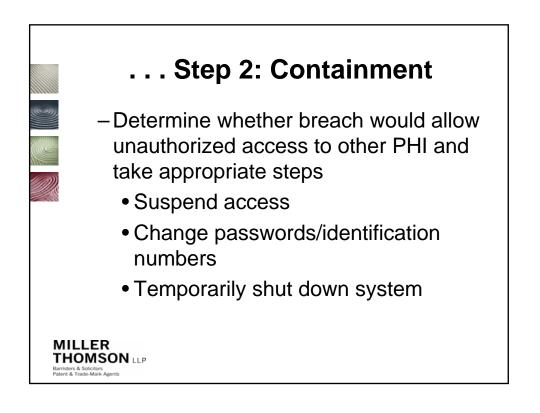


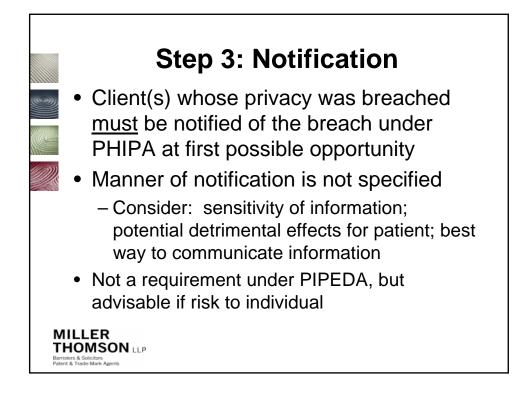


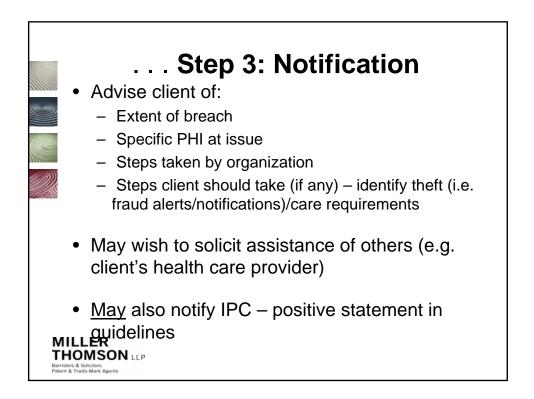


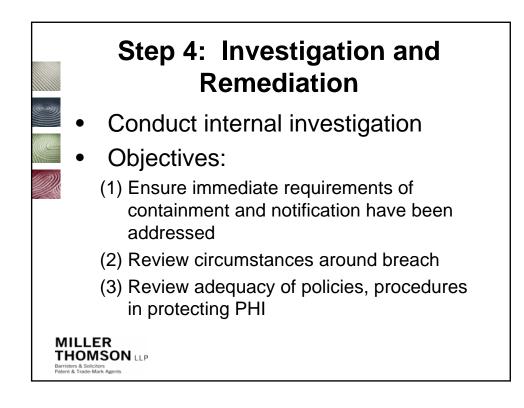


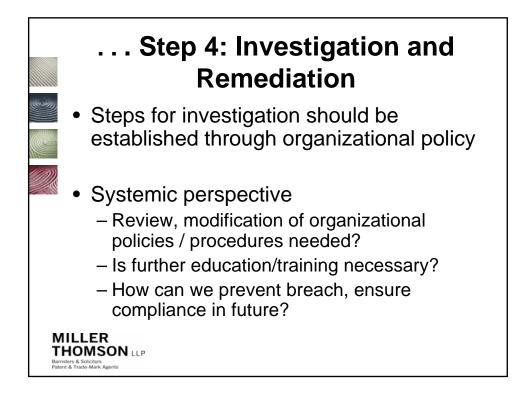


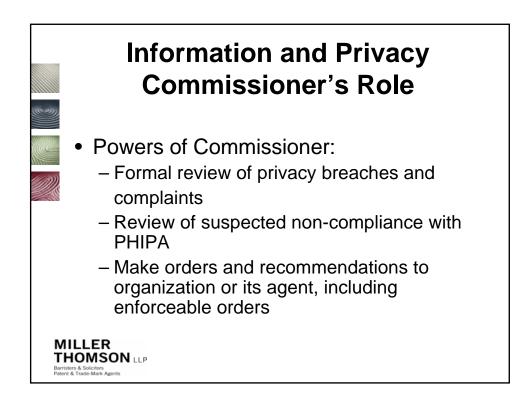


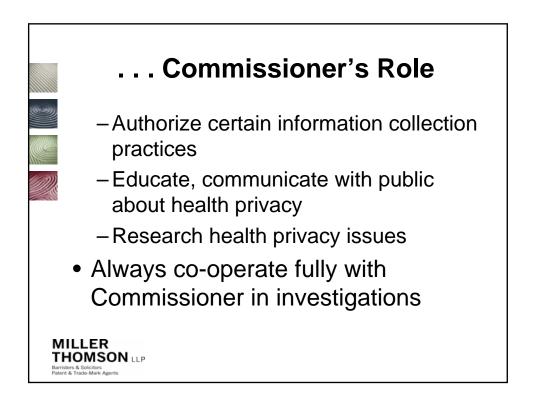


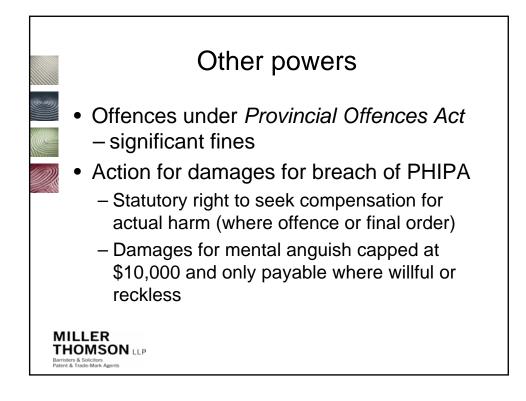


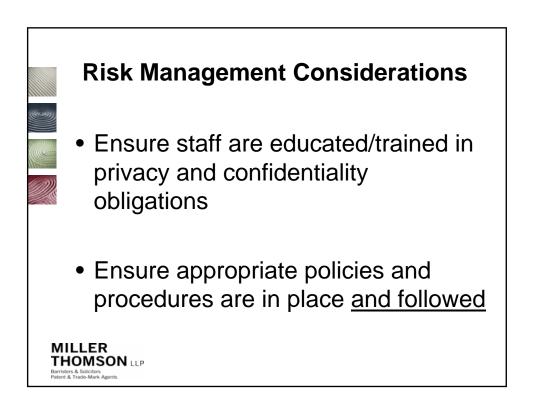


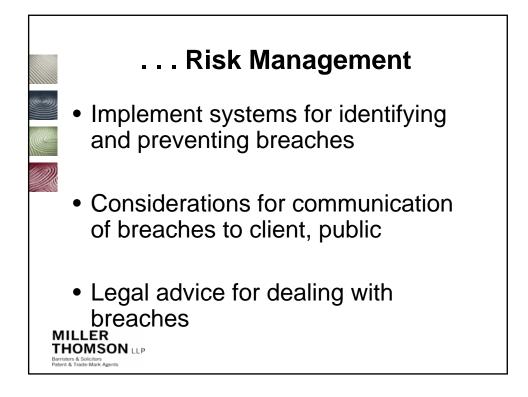
















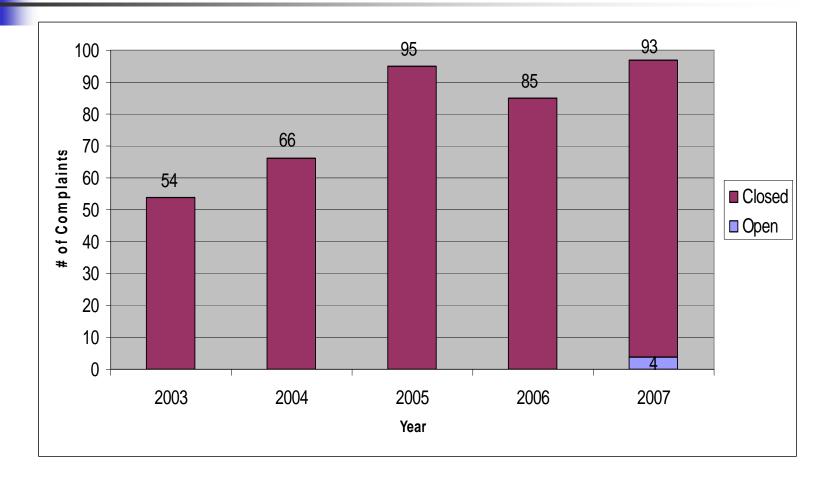
# Managing Privacy Risk and Liability

**Claims Management Implications** 

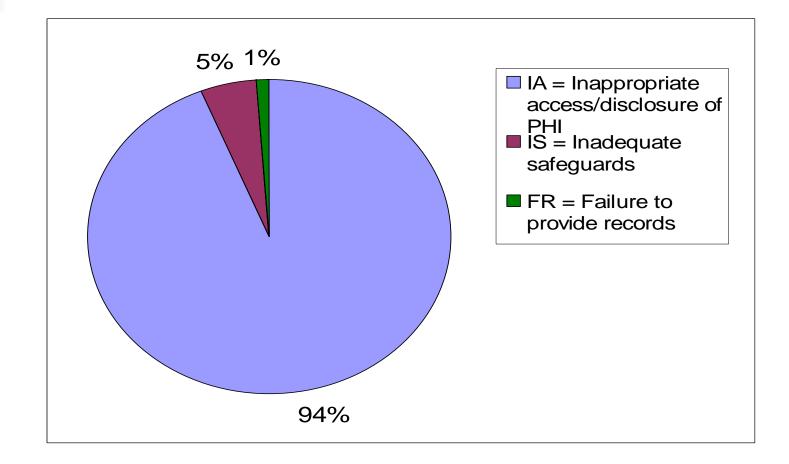
### UMass Memorial's Experience

- UMass Memorial is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest healthcare delivery system in Massachusetts
- System includes academic medical center with three campuses in Worcester, MA and four community hospitals
- System has a Chief Privacy Officer with privacy offices at all locations
- All locations insured through a captive self insured for liability

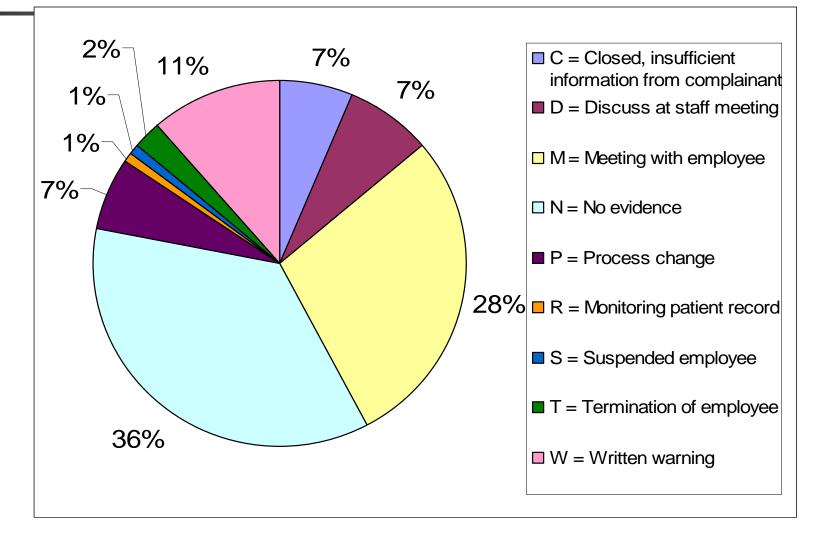
#### UMass Memorial Privacy Complaints -Annual Totals



#### UMass Memorial - 2007 Privacy Complaint Types



#### UMass Memorial - 2007 Privacy Complaint Resolution Types



UMass Memorial – Claim and Suit Experience

- 9 claims and suits since 2004
- 4 closed cases, 5 pending
- Closed cases all settled
- 100% payment rate compares unfavorably with system. UMMHC typically closed 75% -80% of claims and suits without payment
- Indemnity paid approximately \$200,000

# UMass Memorial – Claim and Suit Experience

Claims & Suits – mechanism for breach

Faxes	-	2
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- E-mail/Internet 1
- EMR/MR 5
- Oral 1

Once a violation is reported/complaint made:

- Privacy Office initiates an investigation
- Investigative team is formed including representatives of HR, legal and claims as needed
- Written report is prepared
- Disclosure managed through Risk Management or Claims depending on circumstances

- Disciplinary Action (Consistent with HR and Privacy Policies)
  - Retraining on privacy policies
  - Increased monitoring/surveillance
  - Verbal or written warning
  - Withdrawal of access
  - Suspension
  - Termination

- Claim and Suit Management
- Once a formal claim is initiated, all investigation is coordinated by claims
- UMass Memorial chooses to accept this risk and to self insure it through our captive insurer as a professional liability claim – "medical records services". We have been exploring risk transfer through a cyber liability policy
- Claims and suits presented to date have generally been "liability" cases

- Claim and Suit Management
- Settlement Strategies
  - Disclosure/Early Offer
  - Mediation
  - Arbitration

- Claim and Suit Management
  - Defenses raised
    - Adequate and appropriate training and orientation
    - Appropriate monitoring of employee
    - Intentional/Criminal Act by employee potential to disclaim coverage
    - Limited/no damages

#### Loss Prevention

- UMass Memorial is developing a culture of Enterprise Risk
  Management
  - Risk Assessment Group composed of Senior Management and leaders of Risk Functions (Risk Management, Claims, Legal, Compliance, Internal Audit, Insurance)
  - Focus is on the identification and monitoring of most significant risks to organization
  - Examples include underperforming clinical services, financial controls at affiliate operations, IT infrastructure
  - Out of this effort has come the concept of "Risk Rounds" which include a discussion of a problem with appropriate case studies outlining issue, root cause of problem and contributing factors

#### **Loss Prevention**

- Risk Rounds
  - Privacy Risk Round presented to targeted departments and affiliate organizations
  - Examples OB/GYN, billing, nursing highlighting claim and suits from specific areas
  - UMass Memorial is seeking to move towards transparency and a decision has been made to use actual cases
  - Loss prevention strategies highlighted in case studies.



#### Billing employee breaches confidentiality via improper access to EMR

### **Privacy Case Studies**

- Incident December 2004
- UMass Memorial billing employee became concerned about health status of an individual who provided child care services to her family
- UMM employee accessed child care worker's medical records via Meditech
- Obtained information that child care worker was being treated for an infectious disease

### **Privacy Case Studies**

- Based on information obtained, UMM employee terminated the child care worker's employment
- In addition, the employee shared information concerning the child care worker with others in the community
- The child care worker sought representation from an attorney and a claim was filed within months of the breach

- The employee was terminated after an investigation confirmed inappropriate access
- A complaint was made to the Office for Civil Rights
- The claim was settled for in excess of \$140,000
- UMass Memorial absorbed significant costs for hiring a replacement employee and retraining staff on privacy issues

**Root Cause of Problem** 

 Employee valuing perceived family responsibility higher than the duty to maintain confidentiality as a job responsibility/duty to UMass Memorial. This further caused the employee to use poor judgment in making an intentional and inappropriate access to the patient's PHI.

#### **Contributing Factors**

- Lack of periodic emphasis and retraining on privacy issues for department after initial orientation.
- Inadequate restriction of access to information. Employee had access to PHI beyond that needed for performance of duties.
- Lack of oversight and routine audit of employee activities that would have revealed improper access earlier. Missed opportunity for "damage" control.
- Inability of privacy training to account for cultural and family concerns that impact an employee's ability to maintain confidentiality.

## Privacy Case Study #2

Secretarial employee breaches confidentiality by disseminating information from "paper" record

- Incident October 2004
- UMass Memorial secretarial employee became aware that a family friend had been diagnosed with a cancer when the patient scheduled a surgical appointment
- Access to PHI was via the "paper" record, including a biopsy result

- UMM employee disseminated information concerning cancer diagnosis via e-mail to others who knew patient
- The patient became aware of breach when she received phone calls expressing concern for her welfare
- The patient sought representation by an attorney and a claim was filed within weeks of the breach

- The employee was disciplined after an investigation
- A complaint was filed with the Office for Civil Rights
- The civil claim could not be resolved due to the patient's anger, and a lawsuit was filed
- Eventually, the case was arbitrated, with a finding for the patient in excess of \$50,000. Given protracted litigation, the defense costs exceeded \$40,000

Root Cause of Problem

 Employee willfully ignoring training and office protocol in light of empathy and concern for a friend. This concern caused the employee to use poor judgment in disseminating protected health information via e-mail

**Contributing Factors** 

- Lack of periodic emphasis and retraining on privacy issues for department after initial orientation
- Lack of office manager oversight concerning e-mail usage
- Inability of privacy training to account for family concerns and individual employee emotions that impact an employee's ability to maintain confidentiality

# Privacy Case Study #3

Resident physician breaches confidentiality by improperly accessing EMR of his estranged wife

- Incident April 2007
- UMass Memorial physician was involved in a divorce proceeding. On a number of occasions, the Meditech record for the physician's spouse and child were accessed
- Access to PHI was presumably for use during the custody proceedings for the minor child

- The patient was represented by counsel for divorce proceedings and became aware of the breaches through the court proceedings
- A subpoena was issued for UMass Memorial and a complaint was made
- The attorney representing the patient is considering legal options at this time

- The involved physician was disciplined after an investigation determined inappropriate access
- The physician's actions negatively impacted his custody fight
- UMass Memorial has expended several thousand dollars in legal fees to respond to subpoenas
- There is the potential for a claim or suit

Root Cause of Problem

 Physician willfully ignoring training in light of his anger at spouse over custody battle. This anger and frustration caused the employee to use poor judgment in accessing protected health information in Meditech, and attempting to use it during the court proceedings

**Contributing Factors** 

- Lack of periodic emphasis and retraining on privacy issues for physicians after their initial orientation
- Lack of supervision and support for physician during the difficult divorce proceedings
- Inability of privacy training to account for family concerns and individual employee emotions that impact an employee's ability to maintain confidentiality



Billing employee commits identity theft by obtaining SS# from EMR and using it to commit fraud

- Incident February 2005
- UMass Memorial billing employee accessed the PHI of a patient with her same name, and stole this individual's identity
- Access to PHI was via Meditech and billing databases the employee used in their billing activities
- The employee opened a credit card account in the name of the patient and made purchases

- A complaint was made to UMass Memorial via the Patient Representatives
- The billing employee was suspended and an investigation was undertaken. She resigned voluntarily when faced with termination
- The patient retained and attorney and a suit was brought.
- Given the criminal activity, the billing employee is without insurance to cover the expenses associated with the suit

- The investigation has shown the employee was appropriately trained, supervised and monitored, yet still breached patient confidentiality
- The employee faced legal action by the district attorney's office for identity theft
- UMass Memorial will likely have to expend thousands of dollars in legal fees to respond on behalf of the institution

Root Cause of Problem

 Employee willfully ignoring training and office protocol and accessing PHI for dishonest purposes. The employee used poor judgment in committing a dishonest act.

**Contributing Factors** 

- Lack of periodic emphasis and retraining on privacy issues for employees after their initial orientation
- Inability of privacy training to account for employee financial concerns and individual employee's dishonesty

