

**Miami VA Healthcare System**  
**1201 NW 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Miami, Florida 33125**

**Immediate Release:**

**Date:** April 13, 2010  
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[www.miami.va.gov](http://www.miami.va.gov)

**VA ANNOUNCES FULL COMPLIANCE WITH HITECH ACT TRANSPARENCY  
REQUIREMENTS**

***Eligible Veterans Have Received Information in Mail***

MIAMI, FL. –April 16, 2010 – The Department of Veterans Affairs is responding to the requirements in the new Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH Act). The HITECH Act is part of The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, which is also referred to as the Stimulus Bill.

Miami VA Healthcare System (MVAHS) learned back on January 19, 2010 that a paper copy of a pharmacy log book containing the full name and partial Social Security number of some Veterans was reported missing by a member of our staff. Other information of a more personal nature, such as the date of birth or health information was not included in the log book.

Once the log book was located, the staff member immediately reported the incident to the facility leadership and immediate steps were taken to examine what information may have been made vulnerable. Following the review, it was determined that there is no reason to believe any malicious purpose or identity theft will result from this incident. Nonetheless, VA has taken the precautionary role in providing notification letters to Veterans who may have been affected back in January 2010.

Arrangements have been made with Equifax Personal Solutions to help protect these Veterans' identities and their credit information at no cost for one year. Eligible Veterans have received a letter and promotion code to activate their protection program in the mail.

In accordance with the HITECH Act, VA is providing this press release as public notification and will be publishing this breach on the Health & Human Services (HHS) website. The HITECH Act requires HIPAA covered entities to send press releases on all breaches affecting 500 or more individuals which have occurred since September 23, 2009.

VA is committed to protecting Veterans, their families and our employees, and we are constantly reviewing our processes to provide better, safer and faster care for our Veterans.

For additional information please contact Marjorie Valdes, Assistant Public Affairs Specialist, at (305)575-3399.

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