

## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 24, 2011

### **Local VA Medical Center Finds No Malicious Activity Related to Information Privacy Breach**

CLARKSBURG – On February 8, VA officials at the Clarksburg VA Medical Center were informed that a list of names and Social Security numbers of approximately 1,450 Veterans with future outpatient appointments was left unattended in a government owned vehicle. Upon discovering the information, VA staff immediately returned the information to the Medical Center’s privacy officer.

An extensive investigation was initiated and concluded there is no reason to believe any of the information was intentionally misused or that malicious activity was involved.

“Data security is a top priority of VA, and our staff receives information security and privacy training annually. We are accountable for protecting the privacy of the Veterans we serve. Even though the information was in a government owned vehicle, we felt further investigation was warranted,” said William Cox, director of the Clarksburg VA Medical Center.

VA medical centers are required by law under the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act to disclose informational privacy breaches to the public and Veteran community. Regardless of the exceptionally low risk of a breach, the medical center is sending notification letters to the Veterans identified in the listing. They will also be offered credit monitoring services at VA expense through Equifax Personal Solutions as a precautionary measure to avoid any privacy risk.

“Staff at the Louis A. Johnson VA Medical Center are committed to protecting the privacy of Veterans and their families and want to take every precautionary measure,” Cox said.

Additional information on preventing identity theft can be found on the Federal Trade Commission Web site: <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/micrsites/idtheft/consumers/consumer-publications.html>.

For additional information, contact Wesley Walls, public affairs specialist, at 304-623-3461, extension 3370.

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