RESEARCH NEWS
Washington University in St. Louis

FairWarning - Protecting Patient Privacy

Protecting our patients' health information has become increasingly challenging as security threats escalate. To assist in our efforts to protect our patients' privacy, and to combat serious attacks on our clinical systems, we are partnering with BJC to implement a new patient privacy intelligence technology called FairWarning. This technology actively monitors and analyzes internal and external access to our clinical applications and establishes a rapid response to any potential inappropriate access/activity.

The go-live date for this new technology is slated for September 16 and will focus specifically on Epic. Additional clinical systems will be added to the focused monitoring in subsequent phases.

The longstanding policy for WashU and BJC is to prohibit members of our workforce **from directly accessing their own Protected Health Information (PHI), or PHI of any individual for non-business purposes**. Departments are encouraged to reinforce this policy. In addition, an awareness module on FairWarning is available via self-enrollment in Learn@Work.

As a reminder, failure to comply with the HIPAA Regulation may result in significant financial penalties. Workforce members who violate university policy will be sanctioned in accordance with the university's sanction policy. Additionally, if a workforce member inappropriately accesses and/or discloses protected health information, the workforce member's department will be financially responsible for all costs and expenses associated with the incident. Our BJC partners have similar robust policies and sanctions to comply with the HIPAA Regulation.

Thank you for your support of this important endeavor. For questions about HIPAA FairWarning, contact Christine Schorb, HIPAA Privacy Officer.

Please alert your faculty and other pertinent staff members about this important update by sharing this notice with them.