

## Incidents Involving Patient or Health-Related Data

[www.pogowasright.org](http://www.pogowasright.org)

2003 Chronology Post-HIPAA: **Incidents: 10**    **Potentially Affected: More than 151,524**

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Date	Incident	N
05-02-03	<b>Hospice of the Florida Suncoast</b> Hospice patients and their caregivers sue Hospice of the Florida Suncoast, alleging that Hospice Systems, Inc., their software division, is using the patient's confidential medical information as part of its print and online marketing. <a href="#">Source</a> .	Unknown
05-07-03	<b>Philip C. Lackey, M.D.</b> An AIDS patient, identified as "John Doe" in court records, sues his physician for faxing confidential medical reports to his office, where Doe's employer saw them. <a href="#">Source</a> .	1
05-30-03	<b>Southwest Family Medicine (CO)</b> A hacker leaves 6500 patient records potentially exposed. <a href="#">Source</a> .	6,500
08-28-03	<b>Memorial Hermann Hospital, Ben Taub Hospital, other hospitals (TX)</b> Dishonest employees obtain information on patients and allegedly sell it to Industrial Safety Consultants, who then sell it to personal injury lawyers. There were several arrests stemming from this ring. <a href="#">Source</a> . <a href="#">Source</a> .	Unknown <sup>1</sup>
09-04-03	<b>Wal-Mart (Lubbock, TX)</b> A pharmacy stapled a one-page list to a prescription bag picked up by another customer. The list named 22 customers and included their names, telephone numbers, and the names of their prescription medications, including anti-psychotics. The customer who got the list was a reporter for the Avalanche-Journal. <a href="#">Source</a> .	22
09-08-03	<b>Kobe Bryant Case</b> The alleged victim's medical records were subpoenaed by Bryant's defense lawyers from a Colorado hospital. After a hospital employee released the records to a judge, attorneys for the hospital asked the judge to throw out the subpoenas and destroy the records already received, citing state and federal medical privacy laws. Additionally, a number of news stories have published sensitive medical information that reporters allege came from hospital employees. (M. Miller, "Issues of Privacy in Bryant Case," <i>Los Angeles Times</i> , September 8, 2003).	1

<sup>1</sup> Entries appearing in red indicate that the incident resulted in misuse of information for fraudulent or other purposes.

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10-07-03	<p><b>University of California, San Francisco Medical Center</b>                      A Pakistani clerical worker to whom UCSF patient records had been outsourced for transcription threatened to upload confidential medical files to the internet unless she received money. <a href="#">Source</a>.</p>	Unknown
10-?-03	<p><b>Heartland Information Services (OH)</b>                      The transcription service received an extortion threat from outsource clerical workers in India demanding money or they would upload confidential medical files. <a href="#">Source</a>.</p>	Unknown
11-?-03	<p><b>University of California-Los Angeles Blood and Platelet Center</b>                      A thief stole a laptop with a database of all blood donors from a locked mobile blood van. The database included name, date of birth, SSN, and blood type, but no other medical information. Donors were not notified until June, 2004. <a href="#">Source</a>.</p>	145,000
2003	<p><b>New York City</b>                      A Bronx public assistance office discarded unshredded income tax returns, copies of birth certificates and methadone treatment records for city welfare recipients. <a href="#">Secondary Source</a>.</p>	Unknown