



Patient Privacy Overview Fact Sheet

The American Urogynecologic Society (AUGS) has been monitoring a potential breach to patients' privacy concerning past gynecological surgical procedures. In many instances, patients have believed this violation was a result of the physician, their office, or their hospital releasing private information to some third party. AUGS has researched this issue and have determined that the information is most likely being released by the insurance company to a third party subrogation company.

Since this issue involves a potential HIPAA violation, we consulted the advice and counsel of AUGS' attorney. Our legal counsel has provided the following information on how patients can take action.

Advocate for Privacy

1. ***Office for Civil Rights (OCR)*** - OCR is the agency that enforces HIPAA. Patients should consider filing a complaint through this office. A complaint can be filed online, via email, fax or mail. The complaint must include the individual's name, contact information and details concerning the potential violation. The complaint must be filed within 180 days of the occurrence of the violation. For more information visit, <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/complaints/index.html>.
2. ***Office of Attorney General*** (your state) – The Office of the Attorney General in your state is another avenue to consider if you wish to file a complaint concerning a potential HIPAA violation.

Data Collection

Physicians and providers are encouraged to keep an open dialogue with AUGS about concerns you have and/or are hearing concerning violations of patient information. AUGS is committed to continuing to monitor this issue, as well as advocating on behalf of our patients to protect their privacy.

Health care providers can find more information, as well as a data collection form on the AUGS Website, www.augs.org.

Patients can find more information, as well as an information form on AUGS' patient Website, www.voicesforpfd.org.