

## NOTICE OF DATA BREACH

Letter Date

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Dear First name and Last Name:

I am writing to inform you about an important privacy matter. On June 10, 2016, Kaiser Permanente (KP) Northern California was informed of a potential privacy incident. KP found that a number of Ultrasound (U/S) machines had been stolen by two KP employees. The machines recovered were examined and of these, some were found to contain protected health information (PHI). An investigation was initiated and is ongoing.

### **What happened?**

The preliminary investigation has determined that two Kaiser Permanente employees stole equipment and machines from several Kaiser Permanente sites and stored them in an offsite storage unit. When the stolen items were returned, each was examined and some of the ultrasound machines were found to contain PHI. The theft of this equipment appears to have been for the purpose of selling the machine for profit, and not for the disclosing or misuse of PHI. There is no indication that any protected health information has been used for fraud or other criminal activity.

### **What information was involved?**

The information contained on the U/S included your (*specify per individual*) MRN only, MRN with first name, MRN with last name, MRN with first and last name, first and last name with no MRN, first Initial and last name with No MRN and may have included (U/S) image(s). The information did **NOT** include any financial information or social security numbers.

### **What we are doing?**

A complete and full investigation is underway and actions will be taken as appropriate for this matter. The incident has been reported to law enforcement.

### **What you can do:**

While there is a possibility that any information viewed could be used inappropriately or further disclosed, we believe the risk is limited. Again, the theft of this equipment appears to have been for the purpose of selling the machine for profit, and not for the disclosing or misuse of PHI. And, there is no indication that any protected health information has been used for fraud or other criminal activity.

Kaiser Permanente respects your right to file a complaint. If you have any questions, concerns or wish to file a complaint with us, please contact us at 1-800-464-4000, (TTY-711) between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday – Friday, closed weekends and holidays. If you need help in other languages, you can ask for an interpreter. You also have the right to contact the Department of Health and Human Services through the Office for Civil Rights at 1-800-368-1019.

On behalf of Kaiser Permanente, we offer our sincerest apology that this unfortunate incident occurred. We assure you that safeguarding your information is one of our highest priorities. Again, if you have any questions with regard to this matter, please contact us at 1-800-464-4000, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday – Friday, closed weekends and holidays.

Sincerely,



**Angela Anderson, RN, MPA, CHC, CHPC**  
NCAL Regional Privacy & Security Officer

**Kaiser Permanente**  
Regional Compliance & Privacy  
1800 Harrison Street  
Oakland, CA 94612

As described in our Notice of Privacy Practices, you have privacy rights under a Federal law that protects your health information. We must follow this law to protect your privacy rights. These rights are important for you to know. You can exercise these rights, ask questions about them, and file a complaint if you think your rights are being denied or your health information has not been protected. You may find out more about your privacy rights by reading our Notice at ([www.kp.org/privacy](http://www.kp.org/privacy)), or at

<https://healthy.kaiserpermanente.org/html/kaiser/index.shtml>  
<Select Privacy Practices at bottom of website page>