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LIVINGSTON HEALTHCARE TAKES STEPS TO PREVENT IDENTITY THEFT

Livingston HealthCare is taking steps to prevent your identify from being stolen—including your medical identity. As part of the Federal Trade Commission’s “Red Flag Rules,” Livingston HealthCare has implemented a written identity theft policy designed to detect the warning signs—or "red flags"—of identity theft in day-to-day operations. This program will enable the organization to prevent possible identity theft and respond to it if it occurs.

“This is really important for us to help protect our patients,” said Livingston HealthCare CEO Sam Pleshar. “And it’s really important to help protect us as well.”

Medical identity theft happens when someone falsely uses another person's name, Social Security number, health insurance identification, and/or benefits information in order to obtain medical services or products, or reimbursement from insurers for false claims. Even worse, it can create a false medical record—potentially jeopardizing future care for the victim. Data collected for a federal report in 2007 revealed that more than 250,000 Americans were victimized by this crime that year.

“The next time you check in for a service at the hospital, clinics, or outpatient services, you may be asked to show your photo ID,” added Pleshar. “It's to make sure patients are who they say they are and prevent a would-be identity thief from receiving medical care under another person's name.”

The written identity theft program contains policies that identify, detect, and respond to "red flags"—patterns, practices, activities, or incidents that potentially indicate identity theft. All healthcare facilities are required to comply with this new policy by November 1, 2009.

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