

HHS Office for Civil Rights in Action



April 3, 2020

Alert: Individual Posing as OCR Investigator

It has come to OCR's attention that an individual posing as an OCR Investigator has contacted HIPAA covered entities in an attempt to obtain protected health information (PHI). The individual identifies themselves on the telephone as an OCR investigator, but does not provide an OCR complaint transaction number or any other verifiable information relating to an OCR investigation.

HIPAA covered entities and business associates should alert their workforce members, and can take action to verify that someone is an OCR investigator by asking for the investigator's email address, which will end in @hhs.gov, and asking for a confirming email from the OCR investigator's hhs.gov email address. If organizations have additional questions or concerns, please send an email to: OCRMail@hhs.gov.

Suspected incidents of individuals posing as federal law enforcement should be reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The FBI issued a public service announcement about COVID-19 fraud schemes at: <https://www.ic3.gov/media/2020/200320.aspx>.