



Cardiology Consultants

Cardiothoracic Surgical Associates *of Northwest Florida*

Arrhythmia Consultants *of Northwest Florida*

Members of the Pensacola Heart Institute

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PENSACOLA, FLORIDA – Cardiology Consultants, Inc. today reported that a computer used to process ultrasound images was stolen from one of its Pensacola offices on December 19, 2009. Cardiology Consultants became aware of this incident on December 21, 2009 and immediately began a thorough investigation with authorities. However, as of the date of this release, no arrests have been made and the computer has not been recovered.

The computer did not contain patient financial information or Social Security Numbers. However, the stolen computer did contain the first and last names, dates of birth, medical record numbers, exam dates and in some cases, the reason for the ultrasound. This information was not encrypted, but the computer does require a special key to access the data.

In addition, because of the proprietary configuration of the computer, it is unlikely that the computer's information can be accessed by the average user. It is also unlikely that the limited nature of the information could expose patients to any harm.

Cardiology Consultants is notifying by mail approximately 8,000 patients potentially affected by the breach. "The privacy of our patient's is a top priority," said Practice Administrator Andrew Radoszewski. "The management and staff of Cardiology Consultants regret this incident occurred and we are taking steps to ensure it is not repeated. These steps include a security review and enhancements to building access control systems."

Cardiology Consultants urges patients to visit the Federal Trade Commission's Identity Theft Web site at the link below to obtain valuable information on precautions they may consider taking:

<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft/consumers/index.html>

Patients were encouraged to call 800-452-2067 with questions or concerns.