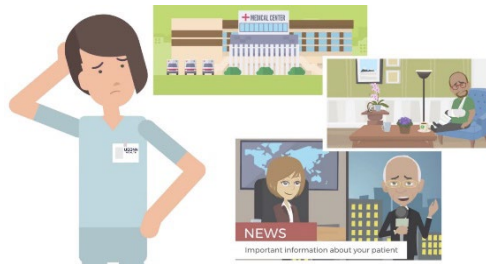# UCONN HEALTH

AN IMPORTANT REMINDER: SNOOPING

Have you ever been curious about a patient's health? Maybe a friend or neighbor, or a co-worker or manager who receives treatment at UConn Health? Have you ever been curious about the result of someone's COVID test, or the status of a high-profile patient that you learned about through the news?

REMEMBER:

Workforce members must not access the confidential information of any patient – including family members, friends, co-workers, students and others – unless access is necessary for a specific work-related responsibility. Doing so is called "snooping" and is prohibited by law and UConn Health's policies and procedures.

WHY IS THIS SO IMPORTANT?

Confidentiality Is a Patient Right and Expectation

At UConn Health, we take the privacy of our patients' information very seriously. Patients expect us to protect their information against unauthorized access, and they have a right to have their information kept confidential. Our patients' trust in UConn Health is critical to our mission.

Consequences of Snooping Can Be Severe

HIPAA violations can result in significant civil and/or criminal penalties. Individuals can be criminally prosecuted and may be subject to steep monetary penalties and/or incarceration. In addition, snooping and other violations of UConn Health policies and procedures may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination from UConn Health. Privacy incidents may also receive media attention, which could damage UConn Health's reputation and jeopardize our patients' trust.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, need guidance or need to report suspected snooping behavior, please contact the Office of Healthcare Compliance and Privacy, 860-679-7226 or privacyoffice@uchc.edu.