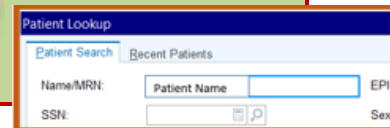


Privacy Buzz

September 2021 Is it a HIPAA violation?



Searching for patients in EPIC

The **patient search functionality** using EPIC is helpful to locate a patient quickly when you need to access their Electronic Medical Record (EMR) and do not have their Medical Record Number (MRN), *but could you be violating HIPAA?*

If you are not authorized to open the EMR of the person you are searching for then you should not be searching for that person.

HIPAA *may be* violated even if you do not Break the Glass if:

- Searching for Co-workers and Peers without an authorized reason.
- Searching for Persons of Interest (POIs) (celebrity, musician, etc) to see if they are a patient of VUMC.
- Searching for any patient that you are not authorized to access.

Contact the Privacy Office by *phone 615-936-3594* or email privacy.office@vumc.org

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