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February 9, 2010

Dear Colleague:

It has come to our attention that a website by the name of Who's Got What (www.whosgotwhat.com) is claiming to be able to provide personal medical information on any individual for a fee. This website claims to have information that is "deemed reliable and accurate." Specifically, the website implicitly claims to be able to provide medical information on previous sexually transmitted disease (STD) history for any individual through a search function using the State of residence and first and last name of an individual. This website is fraudulent.

We have noticed that the website is no longer on the Internet. However, we are concerned that some individuals may think their personal medical information is actually available online. This false belief may create distrust for the Public Health Department and hinder efforts to conduct disease control activities such as case investigation and case management.

I would like to urge everyone to insure clients and community partners that this website is fraudulent as federal law prohibits any personal medical information from being accessed by the general public. The Health Information Privacy and Portability Act (HIPPA) protects the privacy of individually identifiable health information through several mediums, including electronic. Indeed, several security features are in place by the Department of Public Health to be compliant with HIPPA standards and insure the safeguard of any personal health information maintained for Public Health activities.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (213) 744-3070.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter R. Kerndt". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Peter R. Kerndt, M.D., M.P.H.
Director, Sexually Transmitted Disease Program

PRK:jm/as