



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**MAN ARRESTED IN THEFT OF IDENTITIES FROM NEW YORK
PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL; U.S. ATTORNEY PROVIDES
INFORMATION FOR VICTIM ASSISTANCE**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, RONALD J. VERROCHIO, the Inspector-in-Charge of the New York Office of the United States Postal Inspection Service ("USPIS"), BRIAN G. PARR, the Special Agent-in-Charge of the New York Office of the United States Secret Service ("USSS"), and MARK J. MERSHON, the Assistant Director-in-Charge of the New York Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), announced the arrest late Friday of former New York-Presbyterian Hospital employee DWIGHT McPHERSON for his participation in a scheme to steal the identities of more than 40,000 people, and then sell those stolen identities to individuals seeking to commit fraud. According to the Complaint filed in Manhattan federal court:

During the course of approximately two years, McPHERSON perpetrated an identity theft scheme that involved more than 40,000 victims. As a patient admissions representative at New

York-Presbyterian Hospital, McPHERSON had access to the hospital's patient registration system, which is used to track patient admissions, transfers, and discharges, and contains the personal identification information of patients.

Starting in early 2006, McPHERSON agreed to provide the personal identification information of patients of New York-Presbyterian to at least two co-conspirators in return for money. McPHERSON knew that these individuals were going to use this information to commit crimes.

In connection with the scheme, McPHERSON accessed approximately 49,841 patient records over a two year period of time. In December 2007 and early 2008 alone, McPHERSON sold over 2,000 patient identification records to his co-conspirators in New York. In February 2008, approximately 221 of these records were seized by federal agents in Atlanta, Georgia.

McPHERSON was presented in Manhattan federal court on Saturday afternoon on one count of conspiracy. McPHERSON was released on satisfaction of the following conditions: a \$500,000 personal recognizance bond, co-signed by three financially responsible persons and secured by \$2,500 cash; travel limited to the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York; surrender of all travel documents and no new applications; and strict pretrial supervision.

If convicted, McPHERSON faces a maximum penalty of five years' imprisonment, a maximum fine of the greatest of \$250,000, or twice the gross gain or loss derived from the offense, three years' supervised release and a \$100 special assessment.

Mr. GARCIA praised the work of the USPIS, the USSS, and the FBI in the investigation of this case. He added that the investigation is continuing.

This prosecution is being handled by the Office's Major Crimes Unit. Assistant United States Attorney MARIA E. DOUVAS is in charge of the prosecution.

If you believe you were a victim of this crime, including a victim entitled to restitution, and you wish to provide information to law enforcement and/or receive notice of future developments in the case or additional information, please contact Wendy Olsen-Clancy, the Victim Witness Coordinator at the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, at (866) 874-8900 or Wendy.Olsen@usdoj.gov. For additional information, go to: <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nys/victimwitness.html> on the Internet.

Additionally, if you believe you were a victim of this crime, the United States Attorney's Office recommends that you take steps to protect yourself from financial loss if you have not done so already. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) in Washington has the lead role in protecting consumers from identity theft crimes and other frauds. The FTC's website, www.ftc.gov/idtheft, is dedicated to providing information on identity theft. We also strongly recommend that you contact the credit bureaus as follows:

Equifax	www.equifax.com	(866) 766-0008
TransUnion	www.transunion.com	(800) 680-7289
Experian	www.experian.com	(888) 397-3742

Please note that the FTC and credit bureau websites also provide additional information that may be pertinent to your situation.

The charges contained in the Complaint are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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