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### **Lockdown of Patient Data to Secure Confidentiality**

#### *Access to MyVelaris is Currently Unavailable*

LAKE VELARIS, Wash. – As of 11:30 a.m. the patient portal, MyVelaris, is currently unavailable to reduce the number of risks to exposure of confidential patient information.

Our IT department has been able to shut down activity to MyVelaris to further prevent the hackers accessing patient information.

“In order to protect the Protected Health Information, or PHI, of our patients, we have decided that it is best for us to temporarily suspend all MyVelaris activity,” said Carol Smith, Health Information Manager. “MyVelaris is a useful tool to our patients and we don’t wish to inconvenience anyone, however, we believe that doing this we can reduce the risk of any hackers reaching into current and inactive medical records.”

MyVelaris is a patient portal that allows patients to access test results, make appointments, message doctors, and make payments. The portal was launched back in 2015.

“We apologize for this disruption to normal activities, but we place patient care and confidentiality at the forefront of all that we do,” said George Walsh, VMC Hospital Administrator.

The IT department is currently working hard at locking down the system to prevent further exposure, and authorities are en route for assistance.

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