



March 27, 2017

Dear Patient,

We are reaching out because our records indicate you have recently been a patient in the Billings Clinic Cath Lab. A situation has occurred that we want you to know about. We have learned that a former Cath Lab nurse was stealing narcotic medications intended for patients.

In some instances, this nurse exchanged narcotic medication with saline (sterile salt water). We cannot confirm if medication intended for you was involved, and we have found no evidence that patients were exposed to infections, including Hepatitis C and HIV. As an additional precaution, Billings Clinic tested the nurse's blood and the results were clear for those infections. During Cath Lab procedures, patients are sedated using a combination of medications. The stolen narcotic, fentanyl, is only one component of this combination. Successful sedation is achieved using additional dosing or other medications. Your bill will be adjusted to remove charges for sedating medications used during your procedure.

Billings Clinic has terminated this nurse's employment. We immediately reported this issue to the appropriate authorities and regulatory agencies and began our own internal investigation. In addition, we are identifying ways to further strengthen our safeguards and reduce risk of theft and potential threats to patient safety.

We have established a dedicated phone line for you to call if you have any questions. Clinicians are available from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm, Monday through Friday. You may leave a message 24 hours a day. Again, if you have questions, please don't hesitate to call us at 406-657-4355, or toll-free at 844-830-3590.

We are taking this matter very seriously and our focus is to support you as our patient and answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Camilla Saberhagen".

Camilla Saberhagen, M.D.  
Chief Quality and Patient Safety Officer