

April 30, 2021

Dear Patient:

We are writing to inform you of a breach of your health information included on empty and discarded specimen bottles. We recently discovered that these empty specimen bottles from our in-house pathology laboratory were discarded as regular waste instead of being shredded or incinerated.

Each discarded specimen bottle was labeled with the patient's first and last name, date of birth, the date on which the specimen was taken, the name of the provider that took the specimen, and the general area of the body from which the specimen was taken. The specimen bottles did **not** contain any other information, including social security numbers, other identification numbers, credit card or bank account numbers, financial information, or other health information. Again, not any of this sensitive information was included on any of the discarded specimen bottles.

Our records indicate that you had one or more specimens analyzed at our pathology laboratory during the relevant time period, which is February 4, 2011 through March 31, 2021. The breach of your health information would have occurred on or around the date(s) on which you had tests through our pathology laboratory during that period. Based on our investigation, we believe that the specimen bottles were ultimately disposed of in a landfill by the waste contractor servicing our building, and we are not aware that any specimen bottles were improperly accessed or used.

The privacy and security of your health information are extremely important to us. We first learned of this breach on March 31, 2021, and we have already taken appropriate steps to prevent a situation like this from happening again, including updating our waste disposal policies and providing additional training to our employees.

We are committed to addressing any questions or concerns that you may have regarding this situation. Feel free to contact us by phone or by email. You may call us at (800) 338-8891 and leave a voicemail with your contact information, or you may send an email to us at privacy@nedlc.com. We will promptly respond to all communications in the order they are received. We apologize for this incident, and we will continue to put your health and safety at the forefront and work hard to maintain your trust in us.

Sincerely,

New England Dermatology, P.C.
Steve Ieraci, Executive Director