

## Meigs Health Matters: Taking Responsibility for Your Healthcare

As a healthcare provider, the Meigs County Health Department (MCHD) has a legal and ethical obligation to protect its patients. One way that we do this is through posting and following the thirteen Client Rights, one of which is protection of one's personal health information (PHI) under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Privacy, confidentiality and security of all information and records regarding your care and/or services rendered is of utmost importance. If you would like to view the entire list of MCHD's Client Rights, they are available on our website at <https://meigs-health.com/client-rights/>.

In an attempt to further ensure and increase the MCHD's accountability to and protection of both those we serve and insurance companies whom we bill for services, the MCHD has recently updated its existing policy that requires a person who presents for nursing services, i.e. immunizations, pregnancy tests, head lice checks or lead and hemoglobin testing, to provide a valid photo ID and current insurance card. Our updated policy not only requires a person who presents for these services to provide their photo ID and current insurance card (if they have coverage), but also allows the person who doesn't have their card with them the option to pay fee-for-service charges out of pocket prior to receipt of services. This routine to require both a valid photo ID and an insurance card, as checking one's driver's license (or other government ID) helps ensure that the individual being served is the person covered by the health insurance card given to us. This measure prevents both insurance fraud (which increases everyone's health care costs) and protects one's personal health information.

If you have any questions or would like information, please call the MCHD at 740-992-6626.

Leanne Cunningham BSN, RN  
Director of Nursing

