“No Phishing”

**What is Phishing?** Phishing is a fraudulent attempt usually made through email to steal your personal information through fake websites that appear to be legitimate organizations including Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC).

**How to identify Phishing:**
- Phishing emails usually ask for your personal information such as a credit card number, social security number, account number, or password.
  - VUMC has taken steps to decrease recent problems of phishing. The change to email subject lines will note “External” at the beginning of the subject from an outside source.
- Phishing emails will almost always tell you to click a link that takes you to a site where your personal information is requested.
- Legitimate organizations **would not** request this information from you via email.

**The following steps/tips can be used to avoid becoming a victim:**

1. Always check the sender’s address, and be aware that phishers may forge the sender’s address to make it look as though it came from a legitimate organization, when in fact it did not.
2. **Bottom line:** If you’re asked to reveal any personal information via email, you should not respond.
3. **Do not** click on links, photos or videos in these messages as they may contain viruses and malware that can be installed on your computer. (Facebook and other social networking messages, ads, videos and links).
4. **Remember:** Vanderbilt employees are never asked to provide their user name and password via an email.
5. If you think your user ID and/or password have been compromised, change your password immediately.

**FYI...** On June 30, 2014 the Vanderbilt email system received phishing emails that appear to be targeting the Medical Center employees. **Read full story:** [Paycheck theft scam targets VUMC employees](#)

The following information related to phishing was reported by Vanderbilt University Information Technology on July15, 2014:

- 120 Reported Phishing Attacks Resulting In 30,996 Users Receiving a Phishing email
- Total of 430,271 Visits to Known Phishing Sites Prevented
- 97 Confirmed Password Compromises

If you receive a phishing email please contact your local technology support professional or the Vanderbilt University IT Help Desk: 343-HELP or 343-9999

For more information go to: [www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/privacy](http://www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/privacy) or e-mail the Privacy Office at privacy.office@vanderbilt.edu

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