



Beeper Article, October 27, 2005

## **Identity protection recommendations aim to optimize security**

The first phase of the Medical College of Georgia's Identity Protection Initiative yielded 11 security-enhancing recommendations presented to the President's Cabinet in September.

The initiative, implemented last year to address security concerns about documents and systems containing sensitive personal information, was initially intended to reduce the use of the Social Security number as a primary identifier. But it soon expanded to address a more extensive cadre of personal information, according to IPI Project Lead Deb Barshafsky, vice president for decision support.

The recommendations range from distributing privacy reminder posters throughout campus to more complex projects such as analyzing on-line systems for unnecessary personal information.

In the report, Ms. Barshafsky noted the impact the initiative has already had on campus.

"The visibility of this institutional initiative has created awareness on campus about the importance of protecting personal information. Since the identification phase was launched, a number of proactive changes have been made to MCG processes and practices by individual units. Clearly, the IPI slogan—It's Up To You—has resonated with the MCG community."

A copy of the IPI report is available at [www.mcg.edu/ipi](http://www.mcg.edu/ipi). The IPI Steering Team has identified study committee organizers to begin implementing the recommendations. Their first meeting on Oct. 31 will kick off the solutions phase of the project.

For more information or to volunteer to help, visit the Web site or contact Jeananne Atkinson at 1-7134.