

New Network Password requirements are now in place to enhance security.

On Friday, September 11 at 5:00 p.m., Information Systems implemented a change in requirements for network passwords, which are used to login to your network account and My Apps. This change will help create a more secure computing environment at Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare by increasing the strength of the passwords that protect our system.

Note that the following changes will only affect passwords that are created (i.e., new accounts) or changed after 5:00 p.m. on September 11:

- The minimum password length will increase to **8 characters**
- All passwords must include a **combination of at least three** of the following: numbers, upper-case letters, lower-case letters, and/or at least one special character, e.g., #, *, &, ! etc.
- Passwords will remain **case sensitive**.
- The password cannot include any part of your name or account ID.

Here are two scenarios with examples of passwords that are currently acceptable and how they could be changed to comply with the new policy:

Jane's current password is **tigers**. At 7:00 p.m. Friday, September 18, Jane forgets her password and calls the IS Help Desk to request that it be changed. Jane chooses **1gotigers!**, which includes lower-case letters, a number, and a special character. As such, her new password meets the new guidelines and is one that she can remember.

Joe's current password is **health**. Joe wants to change to a more secure password using the Password Management Portal on the IS Self Service Help Desk. Joe logs in through My Apps and changes his password to **joe1may**; however, the system will not accept his password because it contains his name, lacks a special character, and is only seven characters in length. Joe tries again by entering **#healthy1**. This time, the password is accepted because it contains a combination of lower-case letters (not his name!), a special character, and a number, AND it is 9 characters long.

In addition to following the new guidelines for passwords, don't forget the basics of password security: never use your name, account number, or other personal information as a component of your password, do not give your password to anyone, and do not write it on a sticky note posted on or near your PC.

If you have questions, please contact the Help Desk at 516-0000, ##2.