# **BakerHostetler**

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# **CONSUMER PROTECTION**

November 2, 2018

Baker&HostetlerLLP

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<u>VIA OVERNIGHT MAIL</u> Gordon MacDonald Office of the Attorney General 33 Capitol St. Concord, NH 03301

Re: Incident Notification

Dear Attorney General MacDonald:

We are writing on behalf of our client, Inova Health System ("Inova"), regarding a recent incident involving residents. Inova is a hospital system in northwest Virginia, and a covered entity under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996.

On September 5, 2018, Inova was advised by law enforcement that some of its patient records may have been accessed by an unauthorized person. Inova immediately began an investigation to determine how the access occurred and engaged a leading forensic firm to determine what happened and what information may have been accessed. The investigation determined that the unauthorized person obtained the login credentials of an Inova employee and used those credentials to access Inova's billing system in January 2017 and between July and October 2017. The accessed information may have included 10 New Hampshire residents' names, addresses, dates of birth, medical record numbers, and Social Security numbers.

On November 2, 2018, in compliance with HIPAA, Inova is mailing letters to involved patients in substantially the same form as the letter attached hereto.<sup>1</sup> Inova is offering one year of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This report is not, and does not constitute, a waiver of Inova's objection that New Hampshire lacks personal jurisdiction regarding the company related to this matter.

complimentary credit monitoring and identity protection services to these individuals and has a dedicated call center to answer questions.

To help prevent something like this from happening in the future, Inova is enhancing its security processes, putting in place additional monitoring tools, retraining employees about password security, updating its policies regarding password complexity and limitations on transmission of information, and reviewing its policies and procedures.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

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Lynn Sem

Lynn Sessions

Enclosure



<<Mail ID>> <<Name 1>> <<Address 1>> <<Address 2>> <<Address 3>> <<Address 4>> <<Address 5>> <<City>><<State>><<Zip>>

<<Date>>

#### Dear <</Name 1>>:

Inova Health System ("Inova") is committed to protecting the confidentiality and security of our patients' information. Regrettably, we are writing to inform you of an incident involving some of that information.

On September 5, 2018, we were advised by law enforcement that some of our patient records may have been accessed by an unauthorized person. We immediately began an investigation to determine how the access occurred and engaged a leading forensic firm to determine what happened and what information may have been accessed. Our investigation determined that the unauthorized person obtained the login credentials of an Inova employee and used those credentials to access our billing system in January 2017 and between July and October 2017. The individual may have accessed your information, including your name, address, date of birth, medical record number, and Social Security number.

We want you to know that we are taking this matter very seriously and are working closely with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and Fairfax County Police Department. In an abundance of caution, we are offering you a complimentary one-year membership of Experian IdentityWorks<sup>SM</sup> Credit 3B. This product helps detect possible misuse of your personal information and provides you with identity protection services focused on immediate identification and resolution of identity theft. IdentityWorks Credit 3B is completely free to you and enrolling in this program will not hurt your credit score. For more information on identity theft prevention and IdentityWorks Credit 3B, including instructions on how to activate your complimentary one-year membership, please see the additional information provided in this letter. If you have questions regarding the status of the law enforcement investigation and additional resources available to you, please contact HSI's Victim Assistance Specialist at HSI-DCvictimsupport@ice.dhs.gov.

We deeply regret any inconvenience and concern this incident may cause you. As soon as we learned that an employee's credentials were misused, we secured that account. To help prevent something like this from happening in the future, we are enhancing our security processes, have put in place additional monitoring tools, are retraining employees about password security, have updated our policies regarding password complexity and limitations on transmission of information, and are reviewing our policies and procedures.

Should you have any questions, please call 888-891-0804, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

Sincerely,

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Neschla D. McCall Chief Privacy Officer Inova Health System

## Activate IdentityWorks Credit 3B Now in Three Easy Steps

- 1. ENROLL by: << Enrollment Deadline>> (Your code will not work after this date.)
- 2. VISIT the Experian IdentityWorks website to enroll: https://www.experianidworks.com/3bcredit
- 3. PROVIDE the Activation Code: << Enrollment Code>>

If you have questions about the product, need assistance with identity restoration or would like an alternative to enrolling in Experian IdentityWorks online, please contact Experian's customer care team at 877-288-8057. Be prepared to provide engagement number **<< Engagement Number>>** as proof of eligibility for the identity restoration services by Experian.

#### ADDITIONAL DETAILS REGARDING YOUR 12-MONTH EXPERIAN IDENTITYWORKS CREDIT 3B MEMBERSHIP:

A credit card is not required for enrollment in Experian IdentityWorks Credit 3B.

You can contact Experian **immediately without needing to enroll in the product** regarding any fraud issues. Identity Restoration specialists are available to help you address credit and non-credit related fraud.

Once you enroll in Experian IdentityWorks, you will have access to the following additional features:

- Experian credit report at signup: See what information is associated with your credit file. Daily credit reports are available for online members only.\*
- Credit Monitoring: Actively monitors Experian, Equifax and Transunion files for indicators of fraud.
- Experian IdentityWorks ExtendCARE<sup>TM</sup>: You receive the same high-level of Identity Restoration support even after your Experian IdentityWorks membership has expired.
- \$1 Million Identity Theft Insurance\*\*: Provides coverage for certain costs and unauthorized electronic fund transfers.

#### Activate your membership today at https://www.experianidworks.com/3bcredit or call 877-288-8057 to register with the activation code above.

What you can do to protect your information: There are additional actions you can consider taking to reduce the chances of identity theft or fraud on your account(s). Please refer to www.ExperianIDWorks.com/restoration for this information. If you have any questions about IdentityWorks, need help understanding something on your credit report or suspect that an item on your credit report may be fraudulent, please contact Experian's customer care team at 877-288-8057.

### **MORE INFORMATION ON WAYS TO PROTECT YOURSELF**

We remind you to remain vigilant for incidents of fraud or identity theft by reviewing your account statements and free credit reports for any unauthorized activity. If you detect any unauthorized activity on your financial accounts, you should immediately contact your financial institution. You may obtain a copy of your credit report, free of charge, once every 12 months from each of the three nationwide credit reporting companies. To order your annual free credit report, please visit www.annualcreditreport.com or call toll free at 1-877-322-8228. Contact information for the three nationwide credit reporting companies is as follows:

*Equifax*, PO Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374, www.equifax.com, 1-800-685-1111 *Experian*, PO Box 2002, Allen, TX 75013, www.experian.com, 1-888-397-3742 *TransUnion*, PO Box 1000, Chester, PA 19016, www.transunion.com, 1-800-916-8800

<sup>\*</sup> Offline members will be eligible to call for additional reports quarterly after enrolling.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Identity theft insurance is underwritten by insurance company subsidiaries or affiliates of American International Group, Inc. (AIG). The description herein is a summary and intended for informational purposes only and does not include all terms, conditions and exclusions of the policies described. Please refer to the actual policies for terms, conditions, and exclusions of coverage. Coverage may not be available in all jurisdictions.

If you believe you are the victim of identity theft or have reason to believe your personal information has been misused, you should immediately contact the Federal Trade Commission and/or the Attorney General's office in your state. You can obtain information from these sources about steps an individual can take to avoid identity theft as well as information about fraud alerts and security freezes. You should also contact your local law enforcement authorities and file a police report. Obtain a copy of the police report in case you are asked to provide copies to creditors to correct your records.

#### Contact information for the Federal Trade Commission is as follows:

*Federal Trade Commission*, Consumer Response Center, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20580, 1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338), www.ftc.gov/idtheft

If you are a resident of Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, or Rhode Island you may contact and obtain information from your state attorney general at:

Connecticut Attorney General's Office, 55 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106, 1-860-808-5318, www.ct.gov/ag

Maryland Attorney General's Office, 200 St. Paul Place, Baltimore, MD 21202, www.oag.state.md.us, 1-888-743-0023 (toll free when calling within Maryland) or 410-576-6300 (for calls originating outside Maryland)

Office of the Attorney General, One Ashburton Place, Boston, MA 02108, 1-617-727-8400, www.mass.gov/ago/contact-us.html

North Carolina Attorney General's Office, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699, www.ncdoj.gov, 1-919-716-6400 or toll free at 1-877-566-7226

Rhode Island Attorney General's Office, 150 South Main Street, Providence, RI 02903, www.riag.ri.gov, 1-401-274-4400

You can obtain information from these sources about steps an individual can take to avoid identity theft as well as information about fraud alerts and security freezes. You should also contact your local law enforcement authorities and file a police report. Obtain a copy of the police report in case you are asked to provide copies to creditors to correct your records.

Note that pursuant to Rhode Island law, you have the right to file and obtain a copy of any police report and under Massachusetts law you have the right to obtain a copy of any police report.

**Fraud Alerts:** There are two types of fraud alerts you can place on your credit report to put your creditors on notice that you may be a victim of fraud—an initial alert and an extended alert. You may ask that an initial fraud alert be placed on your credit report if you suspect you have been, or are about to be, a victim of identity theft. An initial fraud alert stays on your credit report for at least 90 days. You may have an extended alert placed on your credit report if you suspect you have been, or are about to be, a victim of identity theft. An initial fraud alert stays on your credit report for at least 90 days. You may have an extended alert placed on your credit report if you have already been a victim of identity theft with the appropriate documentary proof. An extended fraud alert stays on your credit report for seven years. You can place a fraud alert on your credit report by contacting any of the three national credit reporting agencies.

**Credit Freezes:** You have the right to put a credit freeze, also known as a security freeze, on your credit file, free of charge, so that no new credit can be opened in your name without the use of a PIN number that is issued to you when you initiate a freeze. A security freeze is designed to prevent potential credit grantors from accessing your credit report without your consent. If you place a security freeze, potential creditors and other third parties will not be able to get access to your credit report unless you temporarily lift the freeze. Therefore, using a security freeze may delay your ability to obtain credit.

There is no fee to place or lift a security freeze. Unlike a fraud alert, you must separately place a security freeze on your credit file at each credit reporting company. For information and instructions to place a security freeze, contact each of the credit reporting agencies at the addresses below:

Experian Security Freeze, PO Box 9554, Allen, TX 75013, www.experian.com TransUnion Security Freeze, PO Box 2000, Chester, PA 19016, www.transunion.com Equifax Security Freeze, PO Box 105788, Atlanta, GA 30348, www.equifax.com To request a security freeze, you will need to provide the following information:

- 1. Your full name (including middle initial as well as Jr., Sr., II, III, etc.)
- 2. Social Security number
- 3. Date of birth

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- 4. If you have moved in the past five years, provide the addresses where you have lived over the prior five years
- Proof of current address such as a current utility bill or telephone bill
  A legible photocopy of a government issued identification card (state driver's license or ID card, military
- identification, etc.)7. If you are a victim of identity theft, include a copy of the police report, investigative report, or complaint to a law enforcement agency concerning identity theft

The credit reporting agencies have one business day after receiving your request by toll-free telephone or secure electronic means, or three business days after receiving your request by mail, to place a security freeze on your credit report. The credit bureaus must also send written confirmation to you within five business days and provide you with a unique personal identification number ("PIN") or password or both that can be used by you to authorize the removal or lifting of the security freeze.

To lift the security freeze in order to allow a specific entity or individual access to your credit report, or to lift a security freeze for a specified period of time, you must submit a request through a toll-free telephone number, a secure electronic means maintained by a credit reporting agency, or by sending a written request via regular, certified, or overnight mail to the credit reporting agencies and include proper identification (name, address, and Social Security number) and the PIN number or password provided to you when you placed the security freeze as well as the identity of those entities or individuals you would like to receive your credit report or the specific period of time you want the credit report available. The credit reporting agencies have one business day after receiving your request by toll-free telephone or secure electronic means, or three business days after receiving your request by mail, to lift the security freeze for those identified entities or for the specified period of time.

To remove the security freeze, you must submit a request through a toll-free telephone number, a secure electronic means maintained by a credit reporting agency, or by sending a written request via regular, certified, or overnight mail to each of the three credit bureaus and include proper identification (name, address, and Social Security number) and the PIN number or password provided to you when you placed the security freeze. The credit bureaus have one business day after receiving your request by toll-free telephone or secure electronic means, or three business days after receiving your request by mail, to remove the security freeze.

**Fair Credit Reporting Act:** You also have rights under the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act, which promotes the accuracy, fairness, and privacy of information in the files of consumer reporting agencies. The FTC has published a list of the primary rights created by the FCRA (https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/pdf-0096-fair-credit-reporting-act.pdf), and that article refers individuals seeking more information to visit www.ftc.gov/credit.

The FTC's list of FCRA rights includes:

- You have the right to receive a copy of your credit report. The copy of your report must contain all the information in your file at the time of your request.
- Each of the nationwide credit reporting companies Experian, TransUnion and Equifax is required to provide you with a free copy of your credit report, at your request, once every 12 months.
- You are also entitled to a free report if a company takes adverse action against you, like denying your application for credit, insurance, or employment, and you ask for your report within 60 days of receiving notice of the action. The notice will give you the name, address, and phone number of the credit reporting company. You're also entitled to one free report a year if you're unemployed and plan to look for a job within 60 days; if you're on welfare; or if your report is inaccurate because of fraud, including identity theft.
- You have the right to ask for a credit score.
- You have the right to dispute incomplete or inaccurate information.
- Consumer reporting agencies must correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information.
- Consumer reporting agencies may not report outdated negative information.
- Access to your file is limited. And you must give your consent for reports to be provided to employers.
- You may limit "prescreened" offers of credit and insurance you get based on information in your credit report.
- You may seek damages from violators.
- Identity theft victims and active duty military personnel have additional rights.