



CALIFORNIA CORRECTIONAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 13, 2016

Contacts:

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Potential breach of patient health information

ELK GROVE, CA – On April 25, 2016, following an investigation, California Correctional Health Care Services (CCHCS) declared a potential breach of Personally Identifiable Information (PII) and Protected Health Information (PHI) that occurred on February 25, 2016. A staff member's non-encrypted, password-protected laptop was stolen from their personal vehicle. This laptop may have contained PII and PHI for patients within the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation incarcerated between the years 1996 and 2014.

Under current federal regulations, an entity shall, following the discovery of a breach of unsecured protected health information, notify each individual whose unsecured protected health information has been, or is reasonably believed by the covered entity to have been, accessed, acquired, used, or disclosed as a result of such breach. (See second page attachment for copy of the Privacy Breach Notification Letter.) As we may not have current contact information for all persons potentially affected, we are taking additional steps of awareness including but not limited to a posting to our web site and notification to the media.

"CCHCS is committed to protecting the personal information of our patients," said Joyce Hayhoe Director of Communications and Legislation. "Appropriate actions were immediately implemented and shall continue to occur. This includes, but is not limited to, corrective discipline, information security training, procedural amendments, process changes and technology controls and safeguards. As necessary, policies, risk assessments and contracts shall be reviewed and updated."

Persons who feel they may have been affected by this potential data breach can contact our department with questions or concerns via the following methods:

Toll-free Hotline: 877-974-4722

Physical Mail:

California Correctional Health Care Services
Controlled Correspondence Unit
PO Box 588500
Elk Grove, CA 95758-8500

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Background: California Correctional Health Care Services (CCHCS) was formed as a result of a 2001 class-action lawsuit (Plata v. Schwarzenegger) against the State of California over the quality of medical care in the prison system. Medical care within the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) was placed under receivership by U.S. District Court Judge Thelton E. Henderson. CCHCS provides medical care to approximately 128,000 inmates in 35 institutions in California. We are currently working with CDCR and the Prison Law Office (PLO) to delegate medical care at the institutions back to state control. CCHCS oversees almost 11,000 positions, including doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and administrative staff.

May 13, 2016

NOTICE OF DATA BREACH

Attention:

We are contacting you because of a possible information security incident involving your personal information.

What Happened

On April 25, 2016 California Correctional Health Care Services (CCHCS) identified a potential breach of your Personally Identifiable Information and Protected Health Information that occurred on February 25, 2016. An unencrypted laptop was stolen from a CCHCS workforce member's personal vehicle. The laptop was password protected in accordance with state protocol.

What Information Was Involved

We do not know if any sensitive information was contained in the laptop. To the extent any sensitive information may have been contained in the laptop, we do not know if the information included any of your information. If your information was included, the nature of the information may have included confidential medical, mental health, and custodial information. To the extent any sensitive information may have been contained in the laptop, we estimate that it would have been limited to information related to your custody and care, if any, between 1996 and 2014.

What We Are Doing

We regret this incident occurred and take these events seriously. CCHCS has taken steps to mitigate these types of events including information security training for staff and we are reinforcing information security practices. We are also taking steps to ensure that all CCHCS mobile devices include appropriate technology protections.

What You Can Do

We do not believe there are any further information privacy protective measures you need to take at this time. However, if you have concerns you can contact the California Correctional Health Care Services, Controlled Correspondence Unit, P.O. Box 588500, Elk Grove, CA 95758-8500.

For More Information

For more information please write the California Correctional Health Care Services, Controlled Correspondence Unit, P.O. Box 588500, Elk Grove, CA 95758-8500.

California Correctional Health Care Services

cc: CCU

