

HIPAA PHI Breach by India Contractor



August 9, 2013: Cogent Healthcare, which manages group practices of hospitalists and intensivists working in hospitals across the nation, is notifying about 32,000 patients following a breach of protected health information by a contractor.

The breach affects 25 Cogent physician groups in at least 17 states. Cogent Healthcare learned that M2ComSys, a medical transcription company in India, was not storing protected health information on secure Internet site, and care notes were accessed. "The access to these notes through the site began May 5, 2013, and ended following Cogent Healthcare's discovery of the lapse on June 24, 2013," according to a public notice from Cogent. "It involved care notes of approximately 32,000 patients from across the county. We are generally unable to identify who accessed the care notes. In some cases, the care notes were indexed by Google."

Compromised information includes patient and physician name, date of birth, diagnosis, treatment summary and medical history, and medical record number. Copies of patient records and Social Security numbers were not included in the accessed information.

Cogent is offering one year of paid identity protection services from Experian. The company also terminated the contract with M2ComSys and took possession of the hardware, confirmed with Google the removal of all PHI from its files, and initiated a security review of other Cogent vendors.

Genesis Health System, one of the affected provider organizations, believes the breach involves about 1,160 of its patients and worked to issue its own notifications before patients were contacted by Cogent, a company they may not recognize, according to a spokesperson. "We are disappointed with this lapse in securing PHI. We are reviewing our relationship with Cogent."

Client Testimonial

"Prime Healthcare and its network of 25 hospitals are excited to have exclusively selected ecfirst, home of the HIPAA Academy, to address HIPAA and HITECH regulatory compliance mandates."

Prime Healthcare

About ecfirst, Home of The HIPAA Academy™

ecfirst is the first organization in healthcare information technology that delivers complete end-to-end solutions for compliance and security. The ecfirst On Demand Consulting Program starts with a commitment of only 40 hours to address immediate HIPAA, HITECH compliance or security implementation challenges. The Managed Compliance Services Program (MCSP) is the first program of its type in the world that comprehensively addresses HIPAA and HITECH compliance requirements for risk analysis, technical vulnerability assessment, policies, training and remediation activities. The MCSP Program is delivered at a fixed monthly fee over a three year period with scheduled timelines for critical compliance mandates. We refer to the MCSP as *Get Compliant*.

Stay Compliant.

Contact

ecfirst is best positioned to be your turn-key compliance and security solutions partner. Our seasoned Practice Team and guaranteed prices will serve you best in meeting compliance and security requirements. I look forward to hearing from you and to discussing how ecfirst can assist with jumpstarting your HIPAA and HITECH initiatives. Thanks!

John T. Schelewitz
Senior Territory Manager

ecfirst
P: 480.663.3225
E: john.schelewitz@ecfirst.com

It is time to comply!

