

December 6, 2018

# VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

Attorney General Xavier Becerra Attorney General's Office California Department of Justice Attn: Public Inquiry Unit P.O. Box 944255 Sacramento, CA 94244-2550

Submitted electronically at: <u>https://oag.ca.gov/ecrime/databreach/reporting</u>

# Re: Notification of Data Security Incident

Dear Attorney General Becerra:

We represent Redwood Eye Center ("Redwood"), an ophthalmology practice located in Vallejo, California, in connection with a recent data security incident which is described in greater detail below. Redwood takes the security and privacy of the information in its control very seriously and is taking steps to prevent a similar incident from occurring in the future.

# 1. Nature of the security incident.

On September 20, 2018, Redwood learned that on September 19, 2018, the third-party vendor that hosts and stores Redwood's electronic medical records experienced a data security incident which affected records pertaining to Redwood patients. Upon learning of the incident, Redwood worked with the third-party vendor to investigate the incident, which in turn consulted a digital forensic firm. Redwood also consulted with a specialized medical software vendor. Redwood's investigation determined that the incident may have involved patient information, including patient names, addresses, dates of birth, health insurance information, and medical treatment information.

# 2. Number of California residents affected.

Redwood notified 16,055 residents of California regarding this data security incident. Notification letters were mailed via first class U.S. mail on December 6, 2018. A sample copy of the notification letter sent to the affected individuals is included with this letter.

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#### 3. Steps taken relating to the incident.

Redwood has taken affirmative steps to prevent a similar situation from arising in the future. These steps include changing medical records hosting vendors and enhancing the security of patient information.

# 4. Contact information.

Redwood is dedicated to protecting the sensitive information that is in its control. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (214) 722-7141, or by e-mail at Lindsay.Nickle@LewisBrisbois.com.

Sincerely,

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Lindsay B. Nickle of LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP

Enclosure

Redwood Eye Center Return Mail Processing Center P.O. Box 6336 Portland, OR 97228-6336

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

<<Date>>

#### Subject: Notice of Data Security Incident

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

We are writing to inform you of a recent data security incident that may have involved your personal information. At Redwood Eye Center, we take the privacy and security of all of our patients' information very seriously and sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this incident may cause you. This letter contains information about steps you can take to protect yourself and resources being made available to help you.

**What Happened?** On September 20, 2018, we learned that at sometime during the night of September 19, 2018, IT Lighthouse, the third-party vendor that hosts and stores our electronic medical records experienced a ransomware attack that affected our patient records. Ransomware is a type of malicious software that is used by cybercriminals to encrypt or lock up files on computers or servers and demand a ransom payment in order to restore access to the locked information. This ransomware attack locked the server that stored some of our patient information.

Upon learning of the incident, we immediately requested additional information from IT Lighthouse and retained cybersecurity experts to assist us. We have confirmed that IT Lighthouse hired a computer forensics company to help them after the ransomware attack, and we worked with our medical records software vendor to restore access to our patient information. While we have no reason to believe that any patient personal information was at risk, we are notifying you out of an abundance of caution.

What Information Was Involved? The information potentially involved may include patient names, addresses, dates of birth, health insurance information, and medical treatment information.

What We Are Doing. As soon as we learned about the incident, we took the steps described above. In addition, we are providing you with information about steps you can take to help protect your personal information. Also, we are taking steps to change our medical record hosting vendor and enhance the security of our patient information.

What You Can Do. While we do not believe any patient personal information was at risk, you can follow the recommendations included with this letter to protect your personal information.

**For More Information.** We sincerely regret any inconvenience or concern this matter may cause you. If you have questions or need assistance, please call 888-595-6390 from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p. m. PST, Monday through Friday.

Sincerely,

Redwood Eye Center

Hepli M.D.

Dr. Anthony Agadzi W4331 v.01 11.30.2018

Malson MD

Dr. Roger Carlson

#### STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO FURTHER PROTECT YOUR INFORMATION

**Review Your Account Statements and Notify Law Enforcement of Suspicious Activity:** As a precautionary measure, we recommend that you remain vigilant by reviewing your account statements and credit reports closely. If you detect any suspicious activity on an account, you should promptly notify the financial institution or company with which the account is maintained. You also should promptly report any fraudulent activity or any suspected incidence of identity theft to proper law enforcement authorities, your state attorney general, and/or the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

**Copy of Credit Report:** You may obtain a free copy of your credit report from each of the three major credit reporting agencies once every 12 months by visiting http://www.annualcreditreport.com/, calling toll-free 877-322-8228, or by completing an Annual Credit Report Request Form and mailing it to Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348. You can print this form at https://www.annualcreditreport.com/cra/requestformfinal.pdf. You also can contact one of the following three national credit reporting agencies:

<b>TransUnion</b>	<b>Experian</b>	<b>Equifax</b>	<b>Free Annual Report</b>
P.O. Box 1000	P.O. Box 9532	P.O. Box 105851	P.O. Box 105281
Chester, PA 19016	Allen, TX 75013	Atlanta, GA 30348	Atlanta, GA 30348
1-877-322-8228	1-888-397-3742	1-800-525-6285	1-877-322-8228
www.transunion.com	www.experian.com	www.equifax.com	annualcreditreport.com

**Fraud Alert:** You may want to consider placing a fraud alert on your credit report. An initial fraud alert is free and will stay on your credit file for at least 90 days. The alert informs creditors of possible fraudulent activity within your report and requests that the creditor contact you prior to establishing any accounts in your name. To place a fraud alert on your credit report, contact any of the three credit reporting agencies identified above. Additional information is available at http://www.annualcreditreport.com.

**Security Freeze:** In some U.S. states, you have the right to put a security freeze on your credit file. This will prevent new credit from being opened in your name without the use of a PIN number that is issued to you when you initiate the freeze. A security freeze is designed to prevent potential creditors from accessing your credit report without your consent. As a result, using a security freeze may interfere with or delay your ability to obtain credit. You must separately place a security freeze on your credit file with each credit reporting agency. In order to place a security freeze, you may be required to provide the consumer reporting agency with information that identifies you including your full name, Social Security number, date of birth, current and previous addresses, a copy of your state-issued identification card, and a recent utility bill, bank statement or insurance statement.

Additional Free Resources: You can obtain information from the consumer reporting agencies, the FTC or from your respective state Attorney General about steps you can take toward preventing identity theft. You may report suspected identity theft to local law enforcement, including to the FTC or to the Attorney General in your state. Residents of Maryland, North Carolina, and Rhode Island can obtain more information from their Attorneys General using the contact information below.

Federal Trade Commission	Maryland Attorney General	North Carolina Attorney	Rhode Island
600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW	200 St. Paul Place	General	Attorney General
Washington, DC 20580	Baltimore, MD 21202	9001 Mail Service Center	150 South Main Street
consumer.ftc.gov, and	oag.state.md.us	Raleigh, NC 27699	Providence, RI 02903
www.ftc.gov/idtheft	1-888-743-0023	ncdoj.gov	http://www.riag.ri.gov
1-877-438-4338		1-877-566-7226	401-274-4400

You also have certain rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), including the right to know what is in your file, to dispute incomplete or inaccurate information, and to have consumer reporting agencies correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information. For more information about the FCRA, and your rights pursuant to the FCRA, please visit http://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/201504\_cfpb\_summary\_your-rights-under-fcra.pdf.