One Brooklyn Health Provides Notice of Data Security Incident

One Brooklyn Health ("OBH") experienced a cybersecurity incident in November 2022 that may affect the privacy of certain individuals' personal information or protected health information ("PHI"). Those potentially affected include OBH employees and their spouses, dependents, and beneficiaries, and certain patients to whom OBH provides or provided healthcare services through its three hospital campuses, Brookdale Hospital Medical Center, Interfaith Medical Center, and Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center, and its nursing homes and health clinics.

What Happened? On November 19, 2022, OBH experienced a cybersecurity incident that affected its computer systems and caused a temporary disruption to certain facility operations. OBH proactively took its systems offline and worked with external specialists to commence an investigation into the nature and scope of the incident. Through the investigation, OBH learned that an unauthorized actor acquired a limited amount of OBH data during a period of intermittent unauthorized access to OBH's computer systems between July 9, 2022, and November 19, 2022. A thorough review of the contents of the affected data was subsequently performed to determine whether it contained any sensitive information and to identify affected individuals. On March 21, 2023, OBH concluded the review and determined that personal and medical information relating to individuals was in the affected files.

What Information Was Involved? Though it varies by individual, the types of personal and/or medical information that may have been accessed or acquired by the unauthorized actor included: names, Social Security numbers, driver's license or state identification numbers, dates of birth, financial account information, medical treatment information, prescription information, medical diagnosis or condition information, and health insurance information. At this time, OBH is unaware of any or actual or attempted misuse of the affected information as a result of this incident.

What OBH Is Doing OBH prioritizes its responsibility to safeguard the information it collects in providing services. As such, OBH responded promptly to this incident and has worked diligently to provide accurate and complete notice of the incident as soon as possible. In addition, OBH notified law enforcement and regulatory agencies of the incident and continues to cooperate with the authorities' independent investigation efforts. As part of its ongoing commitment to the privacy and security of information, OBH is reviewing its existing policies and training protocols related to data protection. Further, OBH implemented enhanced security measures and additional monitoring tools to reduce any risk associated with this incident and to better prevent similar incidents in the future. OBH has communicated with law enforcement and with healthcare authorities regarding this incident.

What You Can Do. OBH sincerely regrets any inconvenience this incident may have caused. Although OBH is unaware of misuse of any information affected by this incident, in accordance with best practices, OBH encourages individuals to remain vigilant against incidents of identity theft and fraud by reviewing account statements, explanation of benefits, and free credit reports for unexpected activity or errors over the next 12 to 24 months. Any questionable activity detected should be reported to the associated insurance company, health care provider, or financial institution immediately.

For More Information. Individuals seeking additional information regarding this incident can call OBH's dedicated, toll-free number at 1-833-570-3025, between 8:00 am and 8:00 pm Monday through Friday Eastern time. You may also reach us directly at: incident@obhny.org. When writing to us, please provide a call back number.

OBH deeply regrets any concerns this incident may cause patients and staff. OBH takes this matter very seriously and will continue to take steps to enhance the security of systems and information OBH maintains to help prevent something like this from happening again.