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Soundpath Health Announces Possible Breach in Protected Health Information

Federal Way, WA – On November 22, 2011, a Soundpath Health laptop computer was stolen out of an employee's locked vehicle. The Soundpath Health employee immediately filed a police report and notified Soundpath Health of the incident. Soundpath Health began an investigation to determine what, if any, protected health information was contained on the laptop computer.

Pursuant to that investigation, it was determined that the employee had previously accessed files containing the name, home address, Soundpath Health member identification number, birth date, age, and primary care physician name, address, phone number and Soundpath Health provider identification number for a group of members participating in a quality of care study. For a small portion of these members (4 percent), the file also included information regarding specific clinical test results.

Social Security numbers and Medicare numbers were **not** in the file that was jeopardized. Per company policy, member information is never saved or stored on employee laptop computers. The file in question was accessed by the employee on the laptop and could be cached on the laptop, but the file itself was not saved or stored on the computer.

Even though the risk of identity theft is very low, Soundpath Health is advising consumers who were on this list to consider taking precautionary steps to protect their identity. Soundpath Health has notified all members affected by this breach via mail and will be offering all affected members access to a credit monitoring product for one year, free of charge.

"We value and protect privacy and confidentiality and deeply regret any inconvenience and concern this may create for our members," said Christine Tomcala, Chief Executive Officer of Soundpath Health. "As a local Washington state health plan, our members are incredibly important to us. We are thoroughly investigating this incident and taking actions to ensure that it does not happen again."

Soundpath Health has rolled out policies to ensure that computers are better protected. In addition, the company has provided additional training to all employees regarding company policies and procedures and Privacy and Security Rules.

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