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UPDATED -- PUBLIC NOTICE: POTENTIAL SECURITY BREACH FOR PRUITTHEALTH HOME HEALTH – LOW COUNTRY AND PRUITTHEALTH HOSPICE -- BEAUFORT
Information on the Potential Breach of Patient and Employee Information

PruittHealth Home Health – Low Country and PruittHealth Hospice – Beaufort, providers of home health and hospice services in the Beaufort, South Carolina area, are committed to patient privacy and compliance with applicable federal and state regulations. The purpose of this notice is to comply with HIPPA, specifically, 45 C.F.R. § 164.404(d)(2)(ii)(A), which requires substitute notification if there is insufficient or out-of-date contact information to notify individuals of a possible breach of protected health information.

On the night of March 2, 2016, the office of PruittHealth Home Health – Low Country was broken into by thieves. The perpetrators broke the glass of the front door and entered the offices. Nothing was stolen but petty cash. The thieves had the opportunity to access all of the paper medical records kept in the office, although it does not appear that any paper medical records were taken or even disturbed. The types of personal information that could have been accessed include things like patient names, addresses, social security numbers, dates of birth, dates of service, location of service, and other clinical information.

On the night of April 11, 2016, the office of PruittHealth Hospice – Beaufort was broken into by thieves. The perpetrators broke the glass of the side window and entered the offices. The thieves broke into the patient file cabinets. Although it does not appear that any paper files were pulled out of the cabinets or taken, the thieves had the opportunity to access all of the paper medical records kept in the office. The types of personal information that could have been accessed include things like patient names, addresses, social security numbers, dates of birth, dates of service, location of service, and other clinical information.

PruittHealth’s Privacy Officer, Joan Chapman, was notified of the PruittHealth – Home Health incident on March 3, 2016 and was notified of the PruittHealth Hospice – Beaufort incident on April 12. PruittHealth Home Health – Low Country and PruittHealth Hospice – Beaufort continue to cooperate fully with the Beaufort Police Department to apprehend the perpetrators. Again, there is no indication that any of our patients’ information was actually accessed or disturbed by the perpetrators.

PruittHealth Home Health – Low Country and PruittHealth Hospice – Beaufort have safeguards in place to protect the privacy and security employee and patient information. As a result of this incident, we are taking additional steps to secure our offices.

All potentially affected patients have been notified by PruittHealth’s Privacy Officer via notification letter by first class mail. However, we have a number of returned letters with no forwarding address. This notice included detailed information on how to contact the major credit bureaus and place an alert or a security freeze on their credit files. The PruittHealth Privacy Officer is also available to call with questions related to both incidents. Individuals may call (678) 533-6437 from 9:00 until 5:00 with questions or call toll-free at any time at 1-800-222-0321 and request a return call from the Privacy Officer.

About PruittHealth:

Since 1969, PruittHealth has been providing high quality healthcare throughout the Southeast. Known for its proactive performance improvement programs and holistic post-acute care services, PruittHealth’s “commitment to caring” defines not only its services, but the culture in which its skilled network of dedicated providers work. With

more than 200 service locations in Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, and North Carolina, the PruittHealth family of providers touches the lives of more than 24,000 patients each day through skilled nursing healthcare centers, home health and hospice agencies, assisted and independent living communities, institutional pharmacy and medical supply services, and programs in rehabilitation, nutrition, adult day care, community care, and care management. For more information about the PruittHealth, visit www.PruittHealth.com.