

Report on Medicare Compliance Volume 33, Number 10. March 18, 2024 OCR Will Investigate Change Healthcare Breach; CMS Makes Money Available

By Nina Youngstrom

The HHS Office for Civil Rights (OCR) said March 13 it has opened an investigation of the cyberattack on Change Healthcare, another collateral effect of the worst hack ever to hit the health care industry.^[1] For now, OCR is focusing on Change Healthcare and its parent company, UnitedHealth Group (UHG), but other covered entities and business associates have a lot at stake in terms of their HIPAA compliance and cybersecurity defenses.

“OCR’s investigation of Change Healthcare and UHG will focus on whether a breach of protected health information occurred and Change Healthcare’s and UHG’s compliance with the HIPAA Rules. OCR’s interest in other entities that have partnered with Change Healthcare and UHG is secondary,” OCR wrote in a letter to “colleagues,” which probably means covered entities and business associates affected by the Change Healthcare incident.

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