



Welcome to *Washington Update*, the weekly e-newsletter on the latest health care happenings in the nation's capital that affect APG's members.

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Resolving Payment Disruptions From Change Healthcare Cyberattack Moves Toward Final Phase

With the immediate effects of the Change Healthcare cyberattack ebbing, federal agencies have announced the following measures to resolve remaining back-payment issues over the coming weeks:

- Health care providers have until July 12, 2024, to apply for assistance from the federal facility aimed at addressing payment disruptions from the attack. The so-called accelerated and advanced payment [program](#) created in the aftermath of the attack last March has so far paid out more than \$2.55 billion to Medicare Part A providers, such as hospitals, and more than \$717.18 million to Part B suppliers, including doctors, non-physician practitioners, and durable medical equipment suppliers. These advances on claims payments are being reconciled against actual claims as the [Medicare Administrative Contractors](#) charged with paying Medicare claims catch up with the backlog.

- Providers and insurance companies will have until [October 12, 2024](#) to open negotiations over payment differences under provisions of the No Surprises Act that were delayed by the Change Healthcare cyberattack. The parties arguing over the payment differences for out-of-network care will need to [attest](#) that the attack caused the negotiating delay.

Change Healthcare assistance: Even as the federal funding facility prepares to close, Change Healthcare continues to accept [requests](#) for funding support from entities experiencing shortfalls in claims payments. There is as yet no indication from the company about when all back payment issues will be resolved.



Timetable Set For Notification To Patients Affected By Change's Information Breach

After a long delay, Change Healthcare has at last posted the required legal [notice of the data breach](#), and has begun to notify customers “whose members’ or patients’ data was involved in the incident,” the company said this week. The review of what data was hacked continues, but possibly includes a broad swath of both protected health information (PHI), including diagnoses, medicines, and test results, as well as personally identifiable information (PII), including Social Security and driver’s license numbers.

Once the hacking review is complete, the company intends to mail notices to all affected individuals, probably beginning in late July, and will cover two years of complimentary credit monitoring and identity protection service for people who believe that they may have been affected. The company has also established a toll-free call center that individuals can connect to for additional information and support by calling 1-866-262-5342.

Ascension attack aftermath: Meanwhile, the Ascension health system has also acknowledged a likely data breach of PHI and PII in the cyberattack that brought many of its IT systems to a halt last month. The organization, which says that it has restored access to electronic health records across the system, has not yet said when notifications to patients and other affected individuals will begin.



In Case You Missed It

- A small silver lining from the “unwinding” of pandemic-era Medicaid protections is that all states have now simplified and streamlined their systems and processes for keeping eligible

people enrolled, a new [survey](#) by KFF shows. Among other changes, several states have also improved coverage for children and pregnancy.



APG Announcements And Offerings

- The next **APG Medicare Advantage Coalition meeting** will take place virtually on June 27 from 2:00 – 3:00 pm ET. Register [here](#).
- Want to get more involved in APG's Federal advocacy efforts? [Join APG Advocates today](#).
- The submission deadline for **APG Case Studies in Excellence 2024** was extended to TODAY, Friday, June 21. Click [here](#) for details.

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