

RESOLUTION AGREEMENT

I. RECITALS

1. **Parties.** The Parties to this Resolution Agreement (“Agreement”) are the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights (“HHS”) and The New York and Presbyterian Hospital (NYP). HHS and NYP shall together be referred to herein as the “Parties.”

2. **Factual Background and Covered Conduct.**

On September 27, 2010, the HHS Office for Civil Rights received notification from “New York-Presbyterian Hospital and Columbia University Medical Center” regarding a breach of its unsecured electronic protected health information (ePHI). On November 5, 2010, HHS notified NYP of HHS’ investigation regarding NYP’s compliance with the Privacy and Security Rules promulgated by HHS pursuant to the administrative simplification provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), Pub.L. 104-191, 110 Stat. 1936.

HHS’ investigation indicated that the following conduct occurred (“Covered Conduct”):

- a. NYP impermissibly disclosed the ePHI of 6,800 patients to Google and other Internet search engines when a computer server that had access to NYP ePHI information systems was errantly reconfigured.
- b. NYP failed to conduct an accurate and thorough risk analysis that incorporates all IT equipment, applications, and data systems utilizing ePHI.
- c. NYP failed to implement processes for assessing and monitoring all IT equipment, applications, and data systems that were linked to NYP patient data bases prior to the breach incident, and failed to implement security measures sufficient to reduce the risks and vulnerabilities to its ePHI to a reasonable and appropriate level.
- d. NYP failed to implement appropriate policies and procedures for authorizing access to its NYP patient data bases, and it failed to comply with its own policies on information access management.

3. **No Admission.** This Agreement is not an admission of liability by NYP.

4. **No Concession.** This Agreement is not a concession by HHS that NYP is not in violation of the HIPAA Privacy and Security Rules and that NYP is not liable for civil money penalties.

5. **Intention of Parties to Effect Resolution.** This Agreement is intended to resolve the HHS Complaint No. 10-150614, regarding possible violations of the HIPAA Privacy and Security Rules. In consideration of the Parties' interest in avoiding the uncertainty, burden, and expense of further investigation and formal proceedings, the Parties agree to resolve these matters according to the terms and conditions below.

II. **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

6. **Payment.** NYP agrees to pay HHS the amount of three million three hundred thousand dollars (\$3,300,000.00) ("Resolution Amount"). NYP agrees to pay the Resolution Amount on the Effective Date of this Agreement as defined in paragraph 14 by automated clearing house transaction pursuant to written instructions to be provided by HHS.

7. **Corrective Action Plan.** NYP has entered into and agrees to comply with the Corrective Action Plan (CAP), attached as Appendix A, which is incorporated into this Agreement by reference. If NYP breaches the CAP, then NYP will be in breach of this Agreement and HHS will not be subject to the Release set forth in paragraph 8 of this Agreement.

8. **Release by HHS.** In consideration and conditioned upon NYP's performance of its obligations under this Agreement, HHS releases NYP from any actions it has or may have against NYP under the Privacy and Security Rules arising out of or related to the Covered Conduct identified in paragraph 2. HHS does not release NYP from, nor waive any rights, obligations, or causes of action other than those specifically referred to in this paragraph. This release does not extend to actions that may be brought under section 1177 of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1320d-6.

9. **Agreement by Released Parties.** NYP shall not contest the validity of its obligations to pay, nor the amount of, the Resolution Amount or any other obligations agreed to under this Agreement. NYP waives all procedural rights granted under Section 1128A of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1320a-7a) and 45 C.F.R. Part 160 Subpart E, and HHS claims collection regulations at 45 C.F.R. Part 30, including, but not limited to, notice, hearing, and appeal with respect to the Resolution Amount.

10. **Binding on Successors.** This Agreement is binding on NYP and its successors, transferees, and assigns.

11. **Costs.** Each Party to this Agreement shall bear its own legal and other costs incurred in connection with this matter, including the preparation and performance of this Agreement.

12. **No Additional Releases.** This Agreement is intended to be for the benefit of the Parties only. By this instrument the Parties do not release any claims against any other person or entity.

13. Effect of Agreement. This Agreement constitutes the complete agreement between the Parties. All material representations, understandings, and promises of the Parties are contained in this Agreement. Any modifications to this Agreement shall be set forth in writing and signed by both Parties.

14. Execution of Agreement and Effective Date. The Agreement shall become effective (*i.e.*, final and binding) upon the date of signing of this Agreement and the CAP by the last signatory (Effective Date).

15. Tolling of Statute of Limitations. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1320a-7a(c)(1), a civil money penalty (CMP) must be imposed within six years from the date of the occurrence of the violation. To ensure that this six-year period does not expire during the term of this Agreement, NYP agrees that the time between the Effective Date of this Agreement and the date this Resolution Agreement may be terminated by reason of NYP's breach, plus one-year thereafter, will not be included in calculating the six year statute of limitations applicable to the violations which are the subject of this Agreement. NYP waives and will not plead any statute of limitations, laches, or similar defenses to any administrative action relating to the Covered Conduct identified in paragraph 2 that is filed by HHS within the time period set forth above, except to the extent that such defenses would have been available had an administrative action been filed on the Effective Date of this Resolution Agreement.

16. Disclosure. HHS places no restriction on the publication of the Agreement. This Agreement and information related to this Agreement may be made public by either party. In addition, HHS may be required to disclose this Agreement and related material to any person upon request consistent with the applicable provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, and its implementing regulations, 45 C.F.R. Part 5.

17. Execution in Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, each of which constitutes an original, and all of which shall constitute one and the same agreement.

18. Authorizations. The individual(s) signing this Agreement on behalf of NYP represent and warrant that they are authorized to execute this Agreement. The individual(s) signing this Agreement on behalf of HHS represents and warrants that he/she is signing this Agreement in his/her official capacities and that he/she is authorized to execute this Agreement.

For The New York and Presbyterian Hospital

/s/

Robert E. Kelly, MD
President and Chief Operating Officer

Date

For the United States Department of Health and Human Services

/s/

Linda C. Colón
Regional Manager, Region II
Office for Civil Rights

Date

Appendix A

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND THE NEW YORK AND PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL

I. Preamble

The New York and Presbyterian Hospital (NYP) hereby enters into this Corrective Action Plan (CAP) with the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights (HHS). Contemporaneously with this CAP, NYP is entering into a Resolution Agreement (Agreement) with HHS, and this CAP is incorporated by reference into the Resolution Agreement as Appendix A. NYP enters into this CAP as consideration for the release set forth in paragraph 8 of the Agreement.

II. Contact Persons and Submissions

A. Contact Persons.

NYP has identified the following individual as its contact person regarding the implementation of this CAP and for receipt and submission of notifications and reports:

Aurelia G. Boyer, RN, MBA
Senior Vice President & Chief Information Officer
New York-Presbyterian Hospital
aboyer@nyp.org

HHS has identified the following individual as its authorized representative and contact person with whom NYP is to report information regarding the implementation of this CAP:

Linda C. Colon, Regional Manager, Region II
Office for Civil Rights
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
26 Federal Plaza, Suite 3312
New York, New York 10278
Voice Phone (212) 264-4136
Fax: (212) 264-3039
Linda.Colon@HHS.gov

NYP and HHS agree to promptly notify each other of any changes in the contact persons or the other information provided above.

B. Proof of Submissions.

Unless otherwise specified, all notifications and reports required by this CAP may be made by any means, including certified mail, overnight mail, or hand delivery, provided that

there is proof that such notification was received. For purposes of this requirement, internal facsimile confirmation sheets do not constitute proof of receipt.

III. Effective Date and Term of CAP

The Effective Date for this CAP shall be calculated in accordance with paragraph 14 of the Agreement (Effective Date). The period for compliance with the obligations assumed by NYP under this CAP shall begin on the Effective Date of this CAP and end three (3) years from the date (“Compliance Term”). Except that after the Compliance Term ends, NYP shall still be obligated to: (a) submit the Annual Report for the final Reporting Period, as set forth in section VI.C.; and (b) comply with the document retention requirement set forth in section VII.

IV. Time

In computing any period of time prescribed or allowed by this CAP, the day of the act, event, or default from which the designated period of time begins to run shall not be included. The last day of the period so computed shall be included, unless it is a Saturday, a Sunday, or a legal holiday, in which event the period runs until the end of the next day which is not one of the aforementioned days.

V. Corrective Action Obligations

NYP agrees to take the following corrective actions. For purposes of the Agreement, the term “affiliated staff” refers to all medical personnel who are employees of Columbia University, but who nonetheless are authorized to treat patients at NYP and have been granted authorization to access NYP ePHI. To the extent necessary, NYP shall collaborate with the Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York (CU) for the purpose of implementing the actions specified below:

A. Modify Existing Risk Analysis Process.

1. Within one hundred eighty (180) calendar days of the Effective Date, NYP shall conduct a comprehensive and thorough risk analysis of security risks and vulnerabilities that incorporates all electronic equipment, data systems, and applications controlled, administered or owned by NYP, its workforce members, and affiliated staff that contains, stores, transmits or receives NYP ePHI. NYP shall develop a complete inventory of all electronic equipment, data systems, and applications that contain or store ePHI which will then be incorporated in its Risk Analysis.

B. Develop and Implement a Risk Management Plan.

1. Within ninety (90) calendar days of the completion of the Risk Analysis required in paragraph V.A. above, NYP shall develop an organization-wide risk management plan to address and mitigate any security risks and vulnerabilities found in its risk analysis. The plan shall include a process and timeline for implementation, evaluation, and revision. The plan shall be forwarded to HHS for its review consistent with paragraph B.2, below.

2. HHS shall review and recommend changes to the aforementioned risk management plan. Upon receiving HHS' recommended changes, NYP shall have sixty (60) calendar days to provide a revised plan. NYP shall begin implementation of the plan and distribute to workforce members and affiliated staff involved with implementation of the plan within ninety (90) calendar days of HHS' approval.
- C. Review and Revise Policies and Procedures on Information Access Management.
1. Within ninety (90) calendar days of the Effective Date, NYP shall review, and to the extent necessary, revise its internal policies and procedures for authorizing access to NYP ePHI. The revised policies and procedures shall include a specific process to be followed by workforce members and affiliated staff for requesting authorization to access NYP ePHI (including criteria for granting such access), obtaining approval of such request, documenting such request, and conducting periodic monitoring of ePHI usage. NYP shall forward its policies and procedures for authorizing access to all NYP ePHI to HHS for its review consistent with paragraph 2 below.
 2. HHS shall review and recommend changes to the policies and procedures specified in paragraph 1. Upon receiving HHS' recommended changes, NYP shall have sixty (60) calendar days to provide revised policies and procedure to HHS for review and approval. NYP shall implement its policies and procedure and distribute to affected workforce members and affiliated staff within ninety (90) calendar days of HHS' approval.
- D. Implement Process for Evaluating Environmental and Operational Changes.
1. Within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days of the Effective Date, NYP shall develop a process to evaluate any environmental or operational changes that affect the security of NYP ePHI.
 2. HHS shall review and recommend changes to the process specified in paragraph 1. Upon receiving HHS' recommended changes, NYP shall have sixty (60) calendar days to provide revised policies and procedure to HHS for review and approval. NYP shall implement its process, including distributing to workforce members with responsibility for performing such evaluations within ninety (90) calendar days of HHS' approval.
- E. Review and Revise Policies and Procedures on Device and Media Controls.
1. Within ninety (90) calendar days of the Effective Date, NYP shall review, and to the extent necessary, revise its policies and procedures related to the use of hardware and electronic media including, but not limited to laptops, servers, tablets, mobile phones, USB drives, external hard drives, DVDs and CDs that may be used to access, store, download, or transmit NYP ePHI. The revised policies shall identify criteria for the use of such hardware and electronic media and procedures for obtaining authorization for the use of personal devices and

media that utilize NYP ePHI systems. The policies shall also address security responsibilities, including disposal and reuse of personal devices and media and regular compliance monitoring. NYP shall forward its policies and procedures to HHS for its review consistent with paragraph 2 below.

2. HHS shall review and recommend changes to the policies and procedure specified in paragraph 1. Upon receiving HHS' recommended changes, NYP shall have sixty (60) calendar days to provide revised policies and procedure to HHS for review and approval. NYP shall implement its policies and procedure and distribute to affected workforce members and affiliated staff who have access to ePHI within ninety (90) calendar days of HHS' approval.

F. Develop an Enhanced Privacy and Security Awareness Training Program.

1. Within ninety (90) calendar days of the Effective Date, NYP shall augment its existing mandatory Health Information Privacy and Security Awareness Training Program (for workforce members and affiliated staff that have access to protected health information including ePHI, to train on the necessity and existence of prohibitions on the purchase, use or administration of computer equipment that accesses NYP ePHI, except under the explicit management of NYP IT personnel ("the Training Program"). As before, the Training Program shall also include general instruction on compliance with the HIPAA Privacy, Security, and Breach Notification Rules and NYP health information security policies and procedures, and shall also include training on new policies and procedures, if any, developed as required by Section V.C-E of this CAP.
2. Under the Training Program, NYP shall provide training to all workforce members and affiliated staff as soon as possible but no later than one year of the Effective Date and yearly thereafter. Any workforce member or affiliated staff that commences working for NYP, or that are given access to ePHI, after the development of the Training Program shall be trained within thirty (30) calendar days of the commencement of their employment or affiliation with NYP.
3. Each individual who is required to attend training shall certify, in writing or in electronic form, that he or she has received the required training and the date training was received. NYP shall retain copies of such certifications for no less than six years following the date training was provided.
4. NYP shall review the Training Program, including all training materials developed as part of the program, annually, and, where appropriate, update the training to reflect changes in Federal law or HHS guidance, any issues discovered during audits or reviews, and any other relevant developments.

VI. Implementation Report and Annual Reports

A. Reportable Events.

1. The one-year period beginning on the Effective Date and each following one-year period during the course of the period of compliance obligations shall be referred to as “the Reporting Periods.” During each Reporting Period under this CAP, NYP shall, upon receiving information that a workforce member or affiliated staff member may have failed to comply with its Privacy, Security, and Breach Notification policies and procedures, promptly investigate the matter. If NYP, after review and investigation, determines that a member of the workforce or affiliated staff has failed to comply with its Privacy, Security and Breach Notification policies and procedures, NYP shall notify HHS in writing within 30 days. Such violations shall be known as “Reportable Events.” The report to HHS shall include the following:
 - a. A complete description of the event, including the relevant facts, the persons involved, and the provision(s) of NYP Privacy, Security, and Breach Notification policies and procedures implicated; and
 - b. A description of the actions taken and any further steps NYP plans to take to address the matter, to mitigate any harm, and to prevent it from recurring, including the application of appropriate sanctions against workforce members who failed to comply with its Privacy, Security, and Breach Notification policies and procedures.
 - c. If no Reportable Events have occurred within a Reporting Period, NYP shall so inform HHS in its Annual Report for that Reporting Period in accordance with section VI.0 of this CAP.

B. Implementation Report.

1. Within two hundred and ten (210) calendar days after receiving HHS’ approval of the documents required under Section V, above, NYP shall submit a written report to HHS summarizing the status of its implementation of the obligations of this CAP (“Implementation Report”). The Implementation Report shall include:
 - a. An attestation signed by an officer of NYP attesting that the Plan and Policies and Procedures required by Section V (a) have been adopted; (b) are being implemented; (c) have been distributed to all appropriate members of the workforce and affiliated staff;
 - b. A copy of all training materials used for the training required by this CAP, a description of the training, including a summary of the topics covered, the length of the session(s) and a schedule of when the training session(s) were held;
 - c. An attestation signed by an officer of NYP attesting that all members of its workforce identified in paragraph V.F.1 have completed

the initial training required by this CAP and have executed the training certifications required by paragraph V.F.3.;

d. An attestation signed by an officer of NYP listing all of NYP's locations, the name under which each location is doing business, the corresponding mailing address, phone number and fax number for each location, and attesting that the obligations of this CAP are being implemented at each location; and

e. An attestation signed by an officer of NYP stating that he or she has reviewed the Implementation Report, has made a reasonable inquiry regarding its content and believes that, upon such inquiry, the information is accurate and truthful.

C. Annual Reports. The one-year period after the Effective Date and each subsequent one-year period during the course of the Compliance Term shall be known as a "Reporting Period." Within 60 days after each corresponding Reporting Period, NYP shall annually submit a report to HHS regarding NYP's compliance with this CAP for each Reporting Period ("Annual Report"). The Annual Report shall include:

1. A copy of the schedule, topic outline, and training materials for the training programs provided during the Reporting Period that is the subject of the Annual Report;
2. An attestation signed by an officer of NYP attesting that NYP obtains and maintains written or electronic training certifications from all persons who are required to attend training under this CAP;
3. A summary of Reportable Events identified during the Reporting Period and the status of any corrective and preventative action(s) relating to all such Reportable Events.

VII. Document Retention

NYP shall maintain for HHS inspection and copying all documents and records relating to compliance with this CAP for six (6) years.

VIII. Breach Provisions

NYP is expected to fully and timely comply with all provisions of its CAP obligations.

A. Timely Written Requests for Extensions

NYP may, in advance of any due date set forth in this CAP, submit a timely written request for an extension of time to perform any act or file any notification or report required by this CAP. A "timely written request" is defined as a request in writing received by HHS at least five (5) business days prior to the date such an act is required or due to be performed.

B. Notice of Breach and Intent to Impose CMP.

The Parties agree that a breach of this CAP by NYP constitutes a breach of the Agreement. Upon a determination by HHS that NYP has breached this CAP, HHS may notify NYP of: (a) NYP's breach; and (b) HHS' intent to impose a CMP pursuant to 45 C.F.R. Part 160 for the Covered Conduct set forth in paragraph 2 of the Agreement and for any other conduct that constitutes a violation of the HIPAA Privacy, Security, and Breach Notification Rules (Notice of Breach and Intent to Impose CMP).

C. NYP's Response.

NYP shall have thirty (30) days from the date of receipt of the Notice of Breach and Intent to Impose CMP to demonstrate to HHS' satisfaction that:

1. NYP is in compliance with the obligations of the CAP cited by HHS as being the basis for the breach;
2. The alleged breach has been cured; or
3. The alleged breach cannot be cured within the 30-day period, but that:
 - (i) NYP has begun to take action to cure the breach;
 - (ii) NYP is pursuing such action with due diligence; and
 - (iii) NYP has provided to HHS a reasonable timetable for curing the breach.

D. Imposition of CMP.

If at the conclusion of the 30-day period, NYP fails to meet the requirements of section VII.C to HHS' satisfaction, HHS may proceed with the imposition of a CMP against NYP pursuant to 45 C.F.R. Part 160 for the Covered Conduct set forth in paragraph 2 of the Agreement and for any other conduct that constitutes a violation of the HIPAA Privacy, Security, and Breach Notification Rules. HHS shall notify NYP in writing of its determination to proceed with the imposition of a CMP.

For The New York and Presbyterian Hospital

/s/

Robert E. Kelly, MD
President and Chief Operating Officer

Date

For the United States Department of Health and Human Services

/s/

Linda C. Colón
Regional Manager, Region II
Office for Civil Rights

Date