

July 12, 2022

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Via electronic-mail: Idtheft@oag.state.md.us

Office of the Attorney General
Attn: Security Breach Notification
200 St. Paul Place
Baltimore, MD 21202

Re:	Our Client	:	Dr. Michelle A. Rivera, M.D. d/b/a Arlington Skin
	Matter	:	Data Security Incident on October 31, 2021
	Wilson Elser File #	:	16516.01690

Dear Attorney General Frosh:

We represent Dr. Michelle A. Rivera, M.D. d/b/a Arlington Skin (“Arlington Skin”) headquartered in Arlington, Virginia, with respect to a potential data security incident described in more detail below.

This letter will serve to inform you of the nature of the security breach, the number of Maryland residents being notified, what information has been compromised, and the steps that Arlington Skin is taking to restore the integrity of the system. We have also enclosed hereto a sample of the notification made to the potentially impacted individuals, which includes an offer of free credit monitoring.

1. Nature of the Security Incident

In 2021, Arlington Skin was using the practice management solution and electronic medical records platform “Allscripts,” which was provided by the practice performance company VPN Solutions, LLC (“VPN Solutions”). Arlington Skin trusted VPN Solutions to protect its patient data, and had electronic medical records for many of its patients stored on the VPN Solutions platform.

According to VPN Solutions, on or around October 31, 2021, VPN Solutions was the target of a cybersecurity attack. According to VPN Solutions, upon identifying the activity, it immediately took its servers offline and initiated a forensic investigation. Notably, there was no evidence that this incident involved unauthorized access to any of Arlington Skin’s patient records.

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However, a lack of available forensic evidence prevented VPN Solutions from ruling out the possibility that some protected health information and personally identifiable information may have been exposed to the bad actor. According to VPN Solutions, an investigation and data mining efforts to specifically identify the potentially affected individuals is ongoing.

The lack of forensic evidence provided by VPN Solutions, and the length of time the investigation has been ongoing has put Arlington Skin in a position where it is impossible to determine whether or not a breach of its patient information occurred at all. Although there was no evidence that any patient data was compromised, and we believe there is a low probability of PHI exposure, Arlington Skin has decided to notify its patients out of an abundance of caution. This data security incident occurred entirely within VPN Solutions' network environment, and there were no other remedial actions available to Arlington Skin.

As of this writing, Arlington Skin has not received any reports of related identity theft since the date of the incident (October 31, 2021 to present).

2. Number of Maryland Residents Affected

A total of six hundred seven (607) residents of Maryland were potentially affected by this security incident. Notification letters to these individual will be mailed on July 11, 2022, by first class mail. A sample copy of the notification letter is included with this letter.

3. Steps Taken

In response to this incident, Arlington Skin is mailing letters to patients whose information was stored on the VPN Solutions network at the time of the incident. This data security incident occurred entirely within VPN Solutions' network environment, and there were no other remedial actions available to Arlington Skin.

Although Arlington Skin is not aware of any evidence of misuse of personal information, Arlington Skin extended to all potentially impacted individuals an offer for free credit monitoring and identity theft protection through Cyberscout. This service will include 12 months of credit monitoring. The notification letter and offer of free credit monitoring will be mailed on July 11, 2022.

4. Contact Information

Arlington Skin remains dedicated to protecting the sensitive information in its control. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at Tawana.Johnson@WilsonElser.com or 470-419-6653.

Very truly yours,

Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP



Tawana Johnson, Esq.

Copy: Robert Walker, Esq.
(Wilson Elser LLP)

Enclosure: *Sample Notification Letter*

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Dr. Michelle A. Rivera, M.D.
P.O. Box 3923
Syracuse, NY 13220

Michelle A. Rivera, MD

Dermatology • Dermatologic Surgery

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

July 8, 2022

Via First-Class Mail

Notice of Data Incident

Dear [REDACTED]

Dr. Michelle A. Rivera, MD d/b/a Arlington Skin (“Arlington Skin”) is a dermatology clinic located in Arlington, Virginia. In 2021, Arlington Skin entered into a service agreement with Virtual Private Network Solutions, LLC d/b/a VPN Solutions, LLC (“VPN Solutions”) for the Allscripts practice management solution and electronic medical records platform. We are writing in order to inform you that some of your personal information may have been stored on the VPN Solutions platform at the time of a data security incident suffered by VPN Solutions in 2021. This is a precautionary notice, and we have no evidence to suggest that your personal information was actually compromised. We take the security of your personal information seriously and want to provide you with information and resources you can use to protect your information.

What Happened and What Information Was Involved:

According to VPN Solutions, on or around October 31, 2021, VPN Solutions was the target of a cybersecurity attack. According to VPN Solutions, upon identifying the activity, it immediately took its servers offline and initiated a forensic investigation. Notably, there was no evidence that this incident involved unauthorized access to any of Arlington Skin’s patient records.

However, a lack of available forensic evidence prevented VPN Solutions from ruling out the possibility that some protected health information and personally identifiable information may have been exposed to the bad actor. The following categories of your information may have been stored on the VPN Solutions network at the time of this incident: name, address, date of birth, social security number, diagnostic and treatment information, and health insurance information. However, as stated above, there was no evidence that this information was actually accessed by the bad actor.

As of this writing, Arlington Skin has not received any reports of identity theft related to this incident.

What We Are Doing:

In response to this incident, we are mailing letters to patients whose information was stored on the VPN Solutions network at the time of the incident. This data security incident occurred entirely within VPN Solutions’ network environment, and there were no other remedial actions available to Arlington Skin. We recommend that patients whose information was stored on the VPN Solutions network review the statements

they receive from their healthcare providers. If they see any services that were not received, they should contact the provider immediately.

We value the safety of your personal information, and are offering you services provided by Cyberscout, a company specializing in fraud assistance and remediation services.

What You Can Do:

Arlington Skin is providing you with access to **Single Bureau Credit Monitoring** services at no charge. These services provide you with alerts for twelve (12) months from the date of enrollment when changes occur to your TransUnion credit file. This notification is sent to you the same day that the change or update takes place with the bureau. These services will be provided by Cyberscout through Identity Force, a company specializing in fraud assistance and remediation services.

To enroll in Credit Monitoring services at no charge, please log on to **<https://secure.identityforce.com/benefit/arlingtonskin>** and follow the instructions provided. When prompted please provide the following unique code to receive services: **PCATBYRAZA**. In order for you to receive the monitoring services described above, you must enroll within 90 days from the date of this letter.

Again, at this time, there is no evidence that your information has been misused. However, we encourage you to take full advantage of this service offering.

Enclosed hereto you will find additional information regarding the resources available to you, and the steps that you can take to further protect your personal information.

For More Information:

We recognize that you may have questions not addressed in this letter. If you have additional questions, please call 1-844-539-0956 Monday through Friday, during the hours of 8:00 am to 8:00 pm Eastern Time (excluding U.S. national holidays). Cyberscout representatives have been fully versed on the incident and can answer questions or concerns you may have regarding protection of your personal information and are available for 90 days.

Arlington Skin values the security of your personal data, and we apologize for any inconvenience that this incident has caused.

Sincerely,



Dr. Michelle A. Rivera, MD

* Services marked with an “*” require an internet connection and e-mail account and may not be available to minors under the age of 18 years of age. Please note that when signing up for monitoring services, you may be asked to verify personal information for your own protection to confirm your identity.

Additional Information

Credit Reports: You may obtain a copy of your credit report, free of charge, whether or not you suspect any unauthorized activity on your account. You may obtain a free copy of your credit report from each of the three nationwide credit reporting agencies. To order your free credit report, please visit www.annualcreditreport.com, or call toll-free at 1-877-322-8228. You can also order your annual free credit report by mailing a completed Annual Credit Report Request Form (available at <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0155-free-credit-reports>) to: Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA, 30348-5281.

Security Freeze: You also have the right to place a security freeze on your credit report. A security freeze is intended to prevent credit, loans, and services from being approved in your name without your consent. To place a security freeze on your credit report, you need to make a request to each consumer reporting agency. You may make that request by certified mail, overnight mail, regular stamped mail, or by following the instructions found at the websites listed below. The following information must be included when requesting a security freeze (note that if you are requesting a credit report for your spouse or a minor under the age of 16, this information must be provided for him/her as well): (1) full name, with middle initial and any suffixes; (2) Social Security number; (3) date of birth; (4) current address and any previous addresses for the past five years; and (5) any applicable incident report or complaint with a law enforcement agency or the Registry of Motor Vehicles. The request must also include a copy of a government-issued identification card and a copy of a recent utility bill or bank or insurance statement. It is essential that each copy be legible, display your name and current mailing address, and the date of issue. As of September 21, 2018, it is free to place, lift, or remove a security freeze. You may also place a security freeze for children under the age of 16. You may obtain a free security freeze by contacting any one or more of the following national consumer reporting agencies:

Equifax Security Freeze P.O. Box 105788 Atlanta, GA 30348 1-800-349-9960 https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/credit-freeze/	Experian Security Freeze P.O. Box 9554 Allen, TX 75013 1-888-397-3742 www.experian.com/freeze/center.html	TransUnion Security Freeze P.O. Box 160 Woodlyn, PA 19094 1-800-909-8872 www.transunion.com/credit-freeze
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Fraud Alerts: You can place fraud alerts with the three credit bureaus by phone and online with:

- Equifax (https://assets.equifax.com/assets/personal/Fraud_Alert_Request_Form.pdf);
- TransUnion (<https://www.transunion.com/fraud-alerts>); or
- Experian (<https://www.experian.com/fraud/center.html>).

A fraud alert tells creditors to follow certain procedures, including contacting you, before they open any new accounts or change your existing accounts. For that reason, placing a fraud alert can protect you, but also may delay you when you seek to obtain credit. As of September 21, 2018, initial fraud alerts last for one year. Victims of identity theft can also get an extended fraud alert for seven years. The phone numbers for all three credit bureaus are at the bottom of this page.

Monitoring: You should always remain vigilant and monitor your accounts for suspicious or unusual activity.

File Police Report: You have the right to file or obtain a police report if you experience identity fraud. Please note that in order to file a crime report or incident report with law enforcement for identity theft, you will likely need to provide proof that you have been a victim. A police report is often required to dispute fraudulent items. You can generally report suspected incidents of identity theft to local law enforcement or to the Attorney General.

FTC and Attorneys General: You can further educate yourself regarding identity theft, fraud alerts, security freezes, and the steps you can take to protect yourself, by contacting the consumer reporting agencies, the Federal Trade Commission, or your state Attorney General.

The Federal Trade Commission can be reached at: 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20580, www.identitytheft.gov, 1-877-ID-THEFT (1-877-438-4338), TTY: 1-866-653-4261. The Federal Trade Commission also encourages those who discover that their information has been misused to file a complaint with them. You can obtain further information on how to file such a complaint by way of the contact information listed above. You have the right to file a police report if you ever experience identity theft or fraud. Please note that in order to file a report with law enforcement for identity theft, you will likely need to provide some proof that you have been a victim. Instances of known or suspected identity theft should also be reported to law enforcement. This notice has not been delayed by law enforcement.

For Maryland residents, the Attorney General can be contacted at 200 St. Paul Place, 16th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202, 1-888-743-0023, and www.oag.state.md.us.

For New Mexico residents, you have rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act, such as the right to be told if information in your credit file has been used against you, the right to know what is in your credit file, the right to ask for your credit score, and the right to dispute incomplete or inaccurate information. Further, pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act, the consumer reporting agencies must correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information; consumer reporting agencies may not report outdated negative information; access to your file is limited; you must give your consent for credit reports to be provided to employers; you may limit “prescreened” offers of credit and insurance you get based on information in your credit report; and you may seek damages from violators. You may have additional rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act not summarized here. Identity theft victims and active duty military personnel have specific additional rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act. We encourage you to review your rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act by visiting www.consumerfinance.gov/f/201504_cfpb_summary_your-rights-under-fcra.pdf or by writing Consumer Response Center, Room 130-A, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20580.

For North Carolina residents, the Attorney General can be contacted at 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-9001, 1-877-566-7226 or 1-919-716-6400, and www.ncdoj.gov.

For New York residents, the Attorney General may be contacted at Office of the Attorney General, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224-0341, 1-800-771-7755, and <https://ag.ny.gov/>.

For Rhode Island residents, the Rhode Island Attorney General can be reached at 150 South Main Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903, www.riag.ri.gov, and 1-401-274-4400. Under Rhode Island law, you have the right to obtain any police report filed in regard to this incident.