

## **Westat, Inc. Provides Notice of Data Privacy Incident**

**Westat, Inc. 10/13/23** – Westat provides research support and services pursuant to contracts with certain governmental agencies, including Carson Valley Health. Westat, Inc. (“Westat”) is providing notice of a recent incident that may impact the privacy of some personal and/or medical information collected from Carson Valley Health]. Westat is unaware of any misuse of individual information and is providing this notice out of an abundance of caution.

Westat utilized MOVEit Transfer (“MOVEit”) third-party software to manage data it collected and/or maintained on behalf of other organizations. On May 30, 2023, Westat detected unusual activity occurring in its MOVEit instance and the following day MOVEit announced a zero-day vulnerability that had impacted a large number of companies across various industries. Westat immediately took steps to ensure the security of its environment, and with the assistance of third-party forensic specialists, conducted an investigation to determine the nature and scope of the activity.

The investigation determined that certain data stored on the MOVEit server may have been copied without authorization between May 28 and May 29, 2023. Westat conducted a detailed review of data involved to determine the type of information that was present and to whom it related. This review confirmed that certain information belonging to medical providers was present in the impacted data, and was accessed or acquired during the MOVEit incident. Upon completion of this analysis, Westat notified governmental agency partners and impacted medical providers and is now providing notification to impacted individuals at the direction of certain impacted medical providers.

The types of personal information that may have been copied by the unauthorized actor include: patient demographics, insurance information and data related to the patient’s hospital visit.

Westat takes the incident and security of personal information in its care seriously. Since discovering this incident, Westat launched an extensive investigation, working with third-party specialists to assess the security of relevant systems and reduce the likelihood of a similar future incident. As part of its ongoing commitment to the privacy of personal information in its care, Westat is working to review its existing policies and procedures and to implement additional administrative and technical safeguards to further secure the information in its systems. Westat also notified federal law enforcement, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and other regulators, as required.

Although Westat is unaware of the misuse of any personal information impacted by this incident, individuals are encouraged to remain vigilant against incidents of identity theft by reviewing account statements and explanations of benefits for unusual activity. Any suspicious activity should be reported to the appropriate insurance company, health care provider, or financial institution.

Individuals seeking additional information regarding this incident can call Westat’s dedicated, toll-free number at 888-998-8671. Individuals may also write to Westat at Westat, Inc., Attn: Kathy Chimes, 1600 Research Boulevard, Rockville, MD 20850.

Westat is committed to safeguarding personal information and will continue its ongoing efforts to enhance the protections in place to secure the information in its care.

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