



FRAUD SQUAD ALERT

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MEDICARE DATA BREACH

In **July of 2023**, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and Maximus Federal Services, Inc. (Maximus), have sent out letters to inform approximately 600,000 beneficiaries of an incident involving their personal information related to services provided by Maximus. Maximus is a CMS contractor that provides appeals services in support of the Medicare program. The letter was clear to say:

“This does not impact your current Medicare benefits or coverage.”

The incident involved a security vulnerability in the MOVEit software, a third-party application which allows for the transfer of files during the Medicare appeals process. Maximus is among the many organizations in the United States that have been impacted by the MOVEit vulnerability.

Those who received a letter were also given instructions on what to do next to determine if their personal information was affected. A special toll-free “response line” was set up for beneficiaries to call to learn how to protect against possible misuse of their information.

IN GENERAL, checking your credit report periodically can help you spot problems and address them quickly.

- Under federal law, you are entitled to one free credit report every 12 months from each of the three major nationwide credit reporting companies. **Call 1-877-322-8228** or request your free credit reports **online at www.annualcreditreport.com**.
- If you find suspicious activity on your credit reports or have reason to believe your information is being misused, **call your local law enforcement agency and file a police report.**
- Be sure to obtain a copy of the police report, as many creditors will want the information it contains as they investigate any fraudulent debts.
- You may also file a complaint with the FTC by contacting them on the web at **www.ftc.gov/idtheft**, by phone at 1-877-IDTHEFT (**1-877-438-4338**), or by mail at **Federal Trade Commission, Consumer Response Center, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580**. Your complaint will be added to the FTC’s Identity Theft Data Clearinghouse, accessible to law enforcement.
- In addition, you may obtain information from the FTC about fraud alerts and security freezes at **ftc.gov**.