COVID Audits and Investigations: The Enforcers

NewsThe United States government has made available an estimated four trillion dollars in relief funds to businesses and individuals, and the Biden administration is proposing roughly two trillion dollars more.

Humana Agrees to a $12.5M Settlement to Resolve Allegations of Anti-Kickback Violations

NewsThe first of its kind FCA case involves Roche and Medicare Advantage insurer Humana.

Renown Health Pays OCR $75K for HIPAA Right of Access Failure

NewsThe Office for Civil Rights reached a $75,000 civil monetary penalty and corrective action plan with Nevada-based Renown Health, to settle a potential violation of the HIPAA

right of access standard.

Humana and Roche Settle False Claims Act Lawsuit for $12.5M

NewsRoche and Humana have agreed to settle a False Claims Act lawsuit brought by a whistleblower relator on behalf of the United States. Defendants will pay $12.5 million to settle the government’s claims.

COVID-19: Natural Disaster or Contractual Quandary?

NewsAs the ever-evolving COVID-19 pandemic is no longer considered ‘unprecedented’ and the restrictions associated with the pandemic have become a part of ‘the new abnormal.’

McKinsey to Pay $573M to Settle Role in Opioid Crisis

NewsGlobal consultancy firm McKinsey & Company has agreed to pay $573 to settle claims by more than 40 US states related to

its role in the nation’s opioid epidemic.

Anthem Agrees to Pay $594M to Settle Antitrust Litigation

NewsThe settlement, struck last fall and awaiting final approval in an Alabama federal court, resolves lawsuits filed in 2012 by insurance customers alleging the Chicago-based Blue Cross Blue Shield Association and the nation’s 36 Blue Cross and Blue Shield insurers violated antitrust laws through practices that limited competition and caused higher prices.

Fifth Circuit Vacates $4.3M HIPAA Penalty, Potentially Opening the Door for Future HIPAA Enforcement Challenges

NewsWith a notably sharply worded opinion, the Fifth Circuit recently vacated over $4.3 million in penalties levied against the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center (M.D. Anderson) by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for a series of alleged HIPAA violations.

Fourth Circuit Refuses to Reduce Record-Breaking $32.7M Asbestos Verdict

NewsThe $32.7 million verdict in Finch is reportedly the largest single-plaintiff verdict and the largest mesothelioma-related verdict in North Carolina history.

Banner Health to Pay OCR $200K for HIPAA Right of Access Failures

NewsThe Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights reached a $200,000 civil monetary penalty and a corrective action plan with Banner Health, to resolve potential violations of the HIPAA Privacy Rule Right of Access standard.

HIPAA Safe Harbor Bill

Becomes Law; Requires HHS to Incentivize Security

NewsThe HIPAA Safe Harbor bill amends the HITECH act to require the Department of Health and Human Services to incentivize best practice cybersecurity for meeting HIPAA requirements.

HHS Proposed HIPAA Changes: 7 Things to Know

NewsU.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced proposed changes to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule to support individuals' engagement in their care, remove barriers to coordinated care, and reduce regulatory burdens on the health care industry.

UnitedHealth Hires Legal Chief as Pandemic Disrupts Business

NewsUnitedHealth Group Inc. announced Friday its hire of Matthew Friedrich as chief legal officer, a role he will assume Jan. 11, as the managed health care and insurance

company copes with the ongoing fallout from the coronavirus pandemic.

Purdue’s Massive Opioid Settlement is Tangled in a Bankruptcy Court Fight

NewsPurdue Pharma’s massive settlement over claims that it helped spark the opioid crisis is facing pushback in federal court, creating a potential stumbling block for the landmark deal.

Begley Awarded $1.8M in Settlement

NewsAssistant Chief Mark Begley was awarded a $1.84 million lawsuit settlement against the County of Kaua‘i and Kaua‘i Police Department.

Johnson & Johnson’s $2B Talc Verdict Stands

NewsJohnson & Johnson has been defending against claims its talc-based powders cause cancers for years, and, with a new ruling against the drugmaker in Missouri, it’s preparing to challenge a massive verdict at the U.S. Supreme Court.

Memphis Physicians Agree to Pay More Than $340,000 for Alleged Overbilling

NewsDoctor Shoaib Qureshi, Doctor Imran Mirza, Memphis Primary Care Specialists, Lunceford Family Health Center, and Getwell Family Medicine agreed to pay $341,690 to resolve allegations that they violated the False Claims Act by knowingly charging Medicare for services rendered by nurse practitioners at the higher reimbursement rate for physician services.

Anthem to Pay $594M Share in Pending Blues Plan Antitrust

Settlement

NewsAnthem is paying a substantial portion of Blues plans' tentative antitrust settlement, which is estimated to be nearly $3 billion.

Medical Device Manufacturer Agrees to $18M Settlement on Kickback Scheme

NewsMedical device maker Merit Medical Systems Inc. (MMSI) has agreed to pay $18 million to resolve allegations that it caused the submission of false claims to the Medicare, Medicaid, and Tricare programs by paying kickbacks to physicians and hospitals to induce the use of MMSI products.

OxyContin Maker Pleads Guilty, and Will Pay $8B and Close Company

NewsPurdue Pharma, the maker of OxyContin, has agreed to plead guilty to three federal criminal charges for its role in creating the nation's opioid crisis and will pay more than $8 billion and close down the company.