

Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation Therapy, Inc.

P.O. Box 2374

Woburn MA 01888

November 15, 2017

Dear Madam or Sir,

We are writing to notify you that a breach of patient data from Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation Therapy of Malden and Reading, Massachusetts, occurred during September, 2017. We are attempting to contact every patient for whom we collected data prior to 12/31/16. Please note that there was no financial information on file and Social Security numbers were not recorded after 2011. Every record did include an insurance identification number and a diagnostic code.

The Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General offers the following information with regard to data breaches: Under Massachusetts law, you have the right to obtain any police report filed in regard to this incident. (Please note that no report is available to-date. Since hackers attempted to extort money to keep the breach from becoming public, the FBI and Homeland Security recently investigated. We applied for their report through the Freedom of Information Act, but have not yet received a copy. We have no reason to believe that the data has been or will be used for further nefarious purposes.)

In the future, if you are the victim of identity theft (for instance, if someone uses your personal information to obtain credit or to file a tax return) you have the right to file a police report and obtain a copy of it.

As with any data breach, you are encouraged to consider implementing credit monitoring or a credit freeze. Massachusetts law allows consumers to place a security freeze on their credit reports. A security freeze prohibits a credit reporting agency from releasing any information from a consumer's credit report without written authorization. However, please be aware that placing a security freeze on your credit report may delay, interfere with, or prevent the timely approval of any requests you make for new loans.

If you have been a victim of identity theft and you provide the credit reporting agency with a valid police report, it cannot charge you to place, lift or remove a security freeze. In all other cases, a credit reporting agency may charge you up to \$5.00 to place, temporarily lift, or permanently remove a security freeze. (Please note that due to the recent Equifax data breach, Equifax is not charging for one year of credit monitoring or for a security freeze.)

To place a security freeze on your credit report, you can go online or send a written request to **each** of the three major consumer reporting agencies. Equifax ([www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)); Experian ([www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)); TransUnion ([www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)) by regular, certified or overnight mail at the addresses below:

Equifax Security Freeze

P.O.Box 105788

Atlanta GA 30348

Experian Security Freeze

P.O. Box 9554

Allen TX 75013

TransUnion Security Freeze

Fraud Victim Assistance Dept.

P.O.Box 2000

Chester PA 19022

In order to request a security freeze, you will need to provide the following information:

1. Your full name, including middle initial as well as Jr., Sr., II, III, etc.
2. Social Security Number
3. Date of Birth
4. If you have moved in the past five years, provide the addresses where you have lived over the prior 5 years
5. Proof of current address such as a current utility bill or telephone bill

6. A legible photocopy of a government issued identification card (state driver's license or ID card, military id, etc.)
7. If you are a victim of identity theft, include a copy of either the police report, investigative report, or complaint to a law enforcement agency concerning identity theft
8. If you are not a victim of identity theft, include payment by check, money order or credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover only) Do not send cash. (Again, no payment needs to accompany the Equifax request)

The credit reporting agencies have three (3) business days after receiving your request to place a security freeze on your credit report. The credit bureaus must also send written confirmation to you within five (5) business days and provide you with a unique personal identification number (PIN) or password or both that can be used by you to authorize the removal or lifting of the security freeze.

To lift the security freeze in order to allow a specific entity or individual access to your credit report, you can go online, call or send a written request to the credit reporting agencies by mail and include proper identification (name, address and social security number **and** the PIN number or password provided to you when you placed the security freeze as well as the identities of those entities or individuals you would like to receive your credit report or the period of time you want the credit report available. The credit reporting agencies have three (3) business days after receiving your request to lift the security freeze for those identified entities or for the specified period of time.

To remove the security freeze, you must go on-line or send a written request to each of the three credit bureaus by mail and include proper identification (name, address and social security number) **and** the PIN number or password provided when you place the security freeze. The credit bureaus have three (3) business days after receiving your request to remove the security freeze.

We at Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Therapy are committed to the security of patient data and will remain diligent to prevent future unlawful, unauthorized access. Our systems will continue to be monitored and have been enhanced with advanced firewall technology. Please call our toll free number 888-485-9131 with any questions regarding the specific data in your record and/or for assistance with navigating the credit freeze and monitoring process.

Sincerely,

Dennis R. Ponte, PT