## **RESOLUTION AGREEMENT**

#### I. Recitals

- 1. Parties. The Parties to this Resolution Agreement (Agreement) are
  - A. The United States Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights ("HHS"), which enforces the Federal standards that govern the privacy of individually identifiable health information (45 C.F.R. Part 160 and Subparts A and E of Part 164, the "Privacy Rule"), the Federal standards that govern the security of electronic individually identifiable health information (45 C.F.R. Part 160 and Subparts A and C of Part 164, the "Security Rule"), and the Federal standards for notification in the case of breach of unsecured protected health information (45 C.F.R. Part 160 and Subparts A and D of 45 C.F.R. Part 164, the "Breach Notification Rule"). HHS has the authority to conduct compliance reviews and investigations of complaints alleging violations of the Privacy, Security, and Breach Notification Rules (the "HIPAA Rules") by covered entities and business associates, and covered entities and business associates must cooperate with HHS compliance reviews and investigations. See 45 C.F.R. §§ 160.306(c), 160.308, and 160.310(b).
  - B. South Broward Hospital District d/b/a Memorial Healthcare System ("MHS") is a covered entity, as defined at 45 C.F.R. § 160.103, and therefore is required to comply with the HIPAA Rules. MHS is a non-profit corporation and an independent special tax district under the laws of the State of Florida which operates six hospitals, a nursing home, and a variety of ancillary health care facilities throughout the South Florida area. MHS is the third largest public health care system in the nation.<sup>1</sup>

HHS and MHS shall together be referred to herein as the "Parties."

### 2. Factual Background and Covered Conduct.

On April 12, 2012, MHS submitted a breach report to HHS indicating that two MHS employees inappropriately accessed patient information, including names, dates of birth, and social security numbers. On July 11, 2012, MHS submitted an additional addendum breach report to notify HHS that during its internal investigation, it discovered additional impermissible access by 12 users at affiliated physician offices, potentially affecting another 105,646 individuals. Some of these instances led to federal charges relating to selling protected health information (PHI) and filing fraudulent tax returns.

HHS's investigation indicated that the following conduct occurred ("Covered Conduct"):

A. MHS impermissibly disclosed the PHI of 80,000 individuals in violation of the Privacy

<sup>1</sup> http://www.mhs.net/aboutus/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> MHS reported a total of 111,650 affected individuals to OCR, but notified 115,143 individuals by letter. According to MHS's response on November 2, 2015, the latter number is accurate as the number affected.

- Rule (See 45 C.F.R. §§160.103 and 164.502 (a)) when it provided access to such PHI to a former employee of an affiliated physician practice from April 1, 2011,<sup>3</sup> to April 27, 2012;<sup>4</sup>
- B. From January 1, 2011, to June 1, 2012, MHS failed to implement procedures to regularly review records of information system activity, such as audit logs, access reports, and security incident tracking reports, as required by 45 C.F.R. §164.308(a)(1)(ii)(D); and
- C. From January 1, 2011 until June 1, 2012, MHS failed to implement policies and procedures that, based upon MHS's access authorization policies, establish, document, review, and modify a user's right of access to a workstation, transaction, program, or process, as required by 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(4)(ii)(C).
- 3. No Admission. This Agreement is not an admission of liability by MHS.
- 4. <u>No Concession</u>. This Agreement is not a concession by HHS that MHS is not in violation of the HIPAA Rules and that MHS is not liable for civil money penalties.
- 5. <u>Intention of Parties to Effect Resolution</u>. This Agreement is intended to resolve HHS Transaction Number: 12-141825 and any violations of the HIPAA Rules related to the Covered Conduct specified in Section I, Paragraph 2 of this Agreement. In consideration of the Parties' interest in avoiding the uncertainty, burden, and expense of further investigation and formal proceedings, the Parties agree to resolve this matter according to the Terms and Conditions below.

## II. Terms and Conditions

- 6. <u>Payment</u>. MHS agrees to pay to HHS the amount of \$ 5,500,000 ("Resolution Amount"). MHS agrees to pay the Resolution Amount on the Effective Date of this Agreement, as defined in section II, paragraph 14, by automated clearing house transaction pursuant to written instructions to be provided by HHS.
- 7. Corrective Action Plan. MHS has entered into and agrees to comply with the Corrective Action Plan ("CAP"), attached as Appendix A, which is incorporated into this Agreement by reference. If MHS breaches the CAP, and fails to cure the breach as set forth in the CAP, then MHS will be in breach of this Agreement and HHS will not be subject to the Release set forth in paragraph 8 of section II of this Agreement.
- 8. Release by HHS. In consideration and conditioned upon MHS's performance of its obligations under this Agreement, HHS releases MHS from any actions it may have against MHS under the HIPAA Rules for the Covered Conduct identified in paragraph 2 of section I. HHS does not release MHS from, nor waive any rights, obligations, or causes of action

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> As reported by MHS in its breach report submitted July 11, 2012.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> This is the date suspicious activity of users ceased, as reported by the analysis of Protiviti, the 3<sup>rd</sup> party auditing firm hired by MHS on May 15, 2012; See MHS's internal investigation provided to OCR on February 12, 2014.

- other than those specifically referred to in that paragraph. This release does not extend to actions that may be brought under section 1177 of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1320d-6.
- 9. Agreement by Released Parties. MHS shall not contest the validity of its obligations to pay, nor the amount of, the Resolution Amount or any other obligations agreed to under this Agreement. MHS waives all procedural rights granted under Section 1128A of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1320a-7a); 45 C.F.R. Part 160 Subpart E; and HHS Claims Collection regulations at 45 C.F.R. Part 30, including, but not limited to, notice, hearing, and appeal with respect to the Resolution Amount.
- 10. <u>Binding on Successors</u>. This Agreement is binding on MHS and its successors, heirs, transferees, and assigns.
- 11. <u>Costs</u>. Each Party to this Agreement shall bear its own legal and other costs incurred in connection with this matter, including the preparation and performance of this Agreement.
- 12. **No Additional Releases.** This Agreement is intended to be for the benefit of the Parties only, and by this instrument the Parties do not release any claims against any other person or entity.
- 13. <u>Effect of Agreement</u>. This Agreement constitutes the complete agreement between the Parties. All material representations, understandings, and promises of the Parties are contained in this Agreement. Any modifications to this Agreement shall be set forth in writing and signed by all Parties.
- 14. <u>Execution of Agreement and Effective Date</u>. The Agreement shall become effective (*i.e.*, final and binding) upon the date of signing of this Agreement and the CAP by the last signatory ("Effective Date").
- 15. Tolling of Statute of Limitations. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1320a-7a(c)(1), a civil money penalty ("CMP") must be imposed within six (6) years from the date of the occurrence of the violation. To ensure that this six-year period does not expire during the term of this agreement, MHS agrees that the time between the Effective Date of this Agreement (as set forth in Section II, paragraph 14) and the date the Resolution Agreement may be terminated by reason of MHS's breach, plus one-year thereafter, will not be included in calculating the six (6) year statute of limitations applicable to the violations which are the subject of this agreement. MHS waives and will not plead any statute of limitations, laches, or similar defenses to any administrative action relating to the Covered Conduct identified in paragraph 2 of section I that is filed by HHS within the time period set forth above, except to the extent that such defenses would have been available had an administrative action been filed on the Effective Date of this Resolution Agreement.
- 16. <u>Disclosure</u>. HHS places no restriction on the publication of the Agreement. In addition, HHS may be required to disclose this Agreement and related material to any person upon request consistent with the applicable provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, 5

U.S.C. § 552, and its implementing regulations, 45 C.F.R. Part 5.

- 17. Execution in Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, each of which constitutes an original, and all of which shall constitute one and the same agreement.
- 18. <u>Authorizations</u>. The individual(s) signing this Agreement on behalf of MHS represent and warrant that they are authorized by MHS to execute this Agreement. The individual(s) signing this Agreement on behalf of HHS represent and warrant that they are signing this Agreement in their official capacities and that they are authorized to execute this Agreement.

~/14/17

2/14/2017

Aurelio Fernandez

President, Chief Executive Officer and

Lloi

Administrator

South Broward Hospital District d/b/a

Memorial Healthcare System

For United States Department of Health and Human Services

Timothy Noonan

Regional Manager, Southeast Region

Office for Civil Rights

# Appendix A

### CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

#### BETWEEN THE

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

#### AND

### MEMORIAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

## I. Preamble

Memorial Healthcare System ("MHS") hereby enters into this Corrective Action Plan ("CAP") with the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights ("HHS"). Contemporaneously with this CAP, MHS is entering into a Resolution Agreement ("Agreement") with HHS, and this CAP is incorporated by reference into the Agreement as Appendix A. MHS enters into this CAP as consideration for the release set forth in section II, paragraph 8 of the Agreement.

## II. Contact Persons and Submissions

# A. Compliance Representative as Contact Person

MHS shall designate an individual to serve as the Compliance Representative ("CR"). The CR shall be an individual who is knowledgeable about the HIPAA Rules and about the policies and practices of MHS with respect to ePHI. The CR shall be responsible for assuring MHS's compliance with this Agreement and the CAP and for arranging for the provision of such assistance as MHS may require to comply with the Agreement and the CAP, including, but not limited to, arranging for and/or providing policies, procedures, training and internal monitoring services.

The CR, designated immediately below, shall also serve as the contact person on behalf of MHS regarding the implementation of this CAP and for receipt and submission of notifications and reports:

Forest Blanton Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer 3051 North Commerce Parkway Miramar, Florida 33025

Office: (954) 276-4100 Mobile: (954) 205-8105 Email: fblanton@mhs.net HHS has identified the following individual as its authorized representative and contact person with whom MHS is to report information regarding the implementation of this CAP:

Timothy Noonan, Regional Manager, Office for Civil Rights 61 Forsyth St, Suite 16T70 Atlanta, GA 30303-8909 Voice: (404) 562-7859

Fax: (404) 562-7881

Email: Timothy.Noonan@hhs.gov

MHS and HHS agree to promptly notify each other of any changes in the contact persons or the other information provided above.

# B. Proof of Submissions.

Unless otherwise specified, all notifications and reports required by this CAP may be made by any means, including certified mail, overnight mail, or hand delivery, provided that there is proof that such notification was received. For purposes of this requirement, internal facsimile confirmation sheets do not constitute proof of receipt.

# III. Effective Date and Term of CAP

The Effective Date for this CAP shall be calculated in accordance with paragraph 14 of the Agreement ("Effective Date"). The period of compliance ("Compliance Term") with the obligations assumed by MHS under this CAP shall begin on the Effective Date and end three (3) years from the Effective Date unless HHS has notified MHS under Section VII hereof of its determination that MHS has breached this CAP. In the event of such a notification by HHS under Section VII hereof, the Compliance Term shall not end until HHS notifies MHS that it has determined that the breach has been cured. After the Compliance Term ends, MHS shall still be obligated to submit the final Annual Report as required by Section V, Paragraph F, and comply with the document retention requirement in section VI.

## IV. Time

Any reference to number of days refers to number of calendar days. In computing any period of time prescribed or allowed by this CAP, the day of the act, event, or default from which the designated period of time begins to run shall not be included. The last day of the period so computed shall be included, unless it is a Saturday, a Sunday, or a Federal holiday, in which event the period runs until the end of the next day which is not one of the aforementioned days.

# V. Corrective Action Obligations

MHS agrees to the following:

### A. Completion of Risk Analysis and Risk Management Plan

- 1. Within sixty (60) days of HHS's approval of the Internal Monitoring Plan, as defined and required by Section V, Paragraph D.1 of this CAP, MHS shall complete a risk analysis and risk management plan pursuant to 45 C.F.R. §164.308(a)(1)(ii) (A) & (B), which shall include:
  - a. All identified risks and vulnerabilities identified at MHS related to enterprise-wide PHI security;
  - b. Evidence that MHS has implemented and maintains a risk management plan to address such risks and vulnerabilities or dates of expected implementation;
  - c. Evidence of implementation or evidence of efforts towards implementation of security measures or other safeguards identified in the risk management plan to address identified risk and vulnerabilities.

# B. Revision of Policies & Procedures

Within ninety (90) days of completion of the Risk Analysis and Risk Management Plan required in Section V, Paragraph A of this CAP:

- 1. MHS shall revise its policies and procedures regarding information system activity review to require the regular review of audit logs, access reports, and security incident tracking reports pursuant to 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(1)(ii)(D).
- 2. MHS shall revise its policies and procedures regarding access establishment and modification and termination pursuant to 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(4)(ii)(C) and 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(3)(ii)(C). Such policies shall include protocols for access to MHS's e-PHI by affiliated physicians, their practices, and their employees.
- 3. Regarding risk analysis and risk management, MHS shall review and revise its existing policies and procedures for compliance with 45 C.F.R. §§164.308(a)(1).
- 4. MHS shall forward the revised policies and procedures required by this Section to HHS for HHS's review and approval. HHS will inform MHS in writing, through the CR, as to whether HHS approves or disapproves of the proposed policies and procedures.

If HHS disapproves of proposed policies and procedures, HHS shall provide the CR with comments and required revisions. Upon receiving any required revisions to such policies and procedures from HHS, MHS shall have thirty (30) calendar days in which to revise the policies and procedures accordingly and then submit

the revised policies and procedures to HHS for review and approval. This process shall continue until HHS approves the policies and procedures.

# C. Adoption and Distribution of Policies and Procedures

1. Within thirty (30) days of obtaining HHS's approval of the revisions to policies and procedures, MHS shall finalize and officially adopt the policies and procedures in accordance with its applicable administrative procedures.

MHS shall distribute the approved policies and procedures to all MHS workforce members, including all workforce members of covered entities that are owned, controlled or managed by MHS, as well as all business associates, vendors, and workforce members of affiliated physician practices.

- 2. MHS shall distribute the approved policies and procedures to all new workforce members within fifteen (15) days of the date they become workforce members of MHS or an affiliated physician practice. The approved policies and procedures shall be provided to business associates and vendors at or before the time service commences.
- 3. MHS shall review the approved policies and procedures routinely and shall promptly update the policies and procedures to reflect changes in operations at MHS, federal law, HHS guidance, and/or any material compliance issues discovered by MHS that warrant a change in the policies and procedures.

# D. Monitoring

#### 1. Internal Monitoring.

Within sixty (60) days of the Effective Date, MHS shall develop, and the CR shall submit to HHS, a written description of MHS's plan to monitor internally its compliance with this CAP ("Internal Monitoring Plan"). MHS shall forward the proposed Internal Monitoring Plan to HHS for HHS's review and approval. HHS will inform MHS in writing, through the CR, as to whether HHS approves or disapproves of the proposed Internal Monitoring Plan.

If HHS does not approve of the proposed Internal Monitoring Plan, HHS shall set forth in writing the reasons for its disapproval and recommendations for the necessary modifications to the proposed Internal Monitoring Plan. Within thirty (30) days of HHS's disapproval, MHS shall submit a revised Internal Monitoring Plan to HHS, incorporating HHS's comments and requested revisions. This process shall continue until HHS approves of the proposed Internal Monitoring Plan.

While this CAP is in effect, MHS may wish, or be required by changes in the law, technology, or otherwise, to update, revise or prepare a new Internal Monitoring Plan. MHS shall be permitted to do so provided that MHS first submit any

updated, revised, or new Internal Monitoring Plan to the Assessor, the appointment of whom is provided for below, and obtain the Assessor's approval before MHS implements the revised version of the Internal Monitoring Plan; and, further provided, that MHS also submit any updated, revised, or new Internal Monitoring Plan to HHS for its review and comment, and obtain HHS' approval, before MHS implements the revised Internal Monitoring Plan. Whenever the existing Internal Monitoring Plan is updated or revised and the updated or revised version has been approved by both the Assessor and HHS and has then gone into effect, the updated or revised Internal Monitoring Plan shall be deemed to have superseded the prior Internal Monitoring Plan.

### 2. External Assessments

## a. Selection and Engagement of an Assessor.

Within sixty (60) days of the Effective Date, MHS shall engage a qualified, objective, independent third-party assessor to review its compliance with this CAP ("Assessor").

Through the CR, MHS shall notify HHS in writing of the name of the individual or entity MHS designates to serve as the Assessor. The CR shall also simultaneously submit to HHS the proposed Assessor's curriculum vitae or a statement of the Assessor's expertise in the area of monitoring compliance with federal and/or state statutes and regulations, including privacy statutes and regulations. Any individual or entity designated by MHS to serve as the Assessor must certify in writing at the time of his, her or its designation, and must provide reasonable written documentation to the effect that he, she or it has the requisite expertise and experience regarding the implementation of the HIPAA Rules and has the necessary resources and is otherwise able to perform the assessments and reviews described herein in a professionally independent fashion, taking into account any other business relationships or other engagements that the individual or entity may have. HHS shall be permitted to interview an individual or representatives of any entity who are designated by MHS to serve as the Assessor.

HHS shall either approve or disapprove of the designation in writing. HHS's approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. If HHS does not approve the designation, HHS shall explain the basis of its disapproval in writing, and the process described above shall be repeated until HHS has approved a designated Assessor. Upon receiving HHS's approval, MHS shall enter into a written contract with the Assessor for the performance of the assessments and reviews described herein.

b. <u>Assessor's Plan</u>. Within sixty (60) days of being approved for service by HHS, the Assessor shall submit to HHS and MHS a written plan, describing with adequate detail, the Assessor's plan for fulfilling the duties set forth in

this subsection ("Assessor's Plan"). HHS shall inform the CR of its approval or disapproval of the proposed Assessor's Plan.

If HHS does not approve of the proposed Assessor's Plan, HHS shall set forth in writing the reasons for its disapproval and recommendations for the necessary modifications to the proposed Assessor's Plan. If the proposed Assessor's Plan is not approved by HHS, the Assessor shall submit a revised Assessor's Plan to HHS, incorporating HHS's comments and requested revisions, within thirty (30) days of HHS's issuance of its disapproval of the proposed Assessor's Plan. This process shall continue until HHS approves of the proposed Assessor's Plan.

The Assessor shall review the Assessor's Plan at least annually and shall provide HHS and MHS with a copy of any revisions to the Assessor's Plan within ten (10) business days of the Assessor's making such revisions. HHS shall have a reasonable opportunity to comment and make recommendations regarding any revisions or modifications at any time while the CAP is in effect. The Assessor shall make such changes to the revisions as HHS may reasonably request.

- c. <u>Description of Assessor Reviews</u>. The Assessor shall investigate, assess and make specific determinations about MHS's compliance with the requirements of this CAP ("Assessor Reviews"). Among other things, the Assessor will: perform unannounced site visits to the various MHS facilities and departments (as determined in the Assessor's Plan) to determine if workforce members are complying with the MHS policies and procedures described above; conduct quarterly progress meetings with MHS's key management, including the CR, Privacy Officer, Security Officer and any other appropriate personnel; interview workforce members, employees of affiliated physician practices, and business associates as needed; and follow up on reports of noncompliance with the CAP, including follow-up on reports of Reportable Events, as defined by Section V, Paragraph E.
- d. Assessor Reports and Response. The Assessor shall prepare written reports based on the Assessor Reviews ("Assessor Report"). The Assessor shall provide such written reports to HHS and MHS. The first Assessor Report shall be due sixty (60) days after the one-year anniversary of HHS's issuance of its approval of the appointment of the Assessor, as provided above. The Assessor shall also submit reports within sixty (60) days of the second anniversary of the date of HHS's approval of the Assessor's appointment and within sixty (60) days of the third anniversary of the date of HHS's approval of the Assessor's appointment.

Within sixty (60) days of MHS's receipt of each Assessor Report, the CR shall submit to HHS and the Assessor a written response to the Assessor

Report. HHS may, but is not required to, comment on any of the reports submitted by the Assessor and/or any response from the CR.

The Assessor shall immediately report to MHS and HHS any significant violation of the CAP which the Assessor identifies during the course of the performance of the Assessor Reviews. The CR shall prepare a written response, including, when appropriate, a plan of correction, and provide such response to HHS and the Assessor, within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the Assessor's report of the significant violation.

- e. <u>Retention of Records</u>. The Assessor, the CR and MHS shall retain and make available to HHS, upon HHS's request, all work papers, supporting documentation, correspondence, and draft reports (those exchanged between the Assessor and the CR or MHS) related to Assessor Reviews.
- f. Assessor Removal/Termination. MHS may not terminate the Assessor except for cause and may only do so with HHS's consent, which shall not be unreasonably withheld. In the event that MHS seeks to terminate the Assessor, the CR shall provide a written statement to HHS setting out in detail the basis for the request, and HHS shall take those steps it deems appropriate in reviewing and deciding whether adequate cause actually exists for the termination of the Assessor. If HHS agrees that the current Assessor should be terminated, HHS will so inform the CR in writing and MHS will be authorized to terminate the services of the current Assessor. If such termination does occur, MHS must engage a replacement Assessor in accordance with this CAP within thirty (30) days of the termination of the previous Assessor, subject to HHS's approval.

If HHS concludes that cause does not exist for the removal of the original Assessor, it shall so inform the CR in writing and the original Assessor shall remain in place and be authorized to function in all respects as if MHS had never sought to remove the Assessor.

In the event HHS determines that the Assessor does not possess the expertise, independence, or objectivity required by this CAP, or has failed to carry out its responsibilities as set forth in this CAP, HHS may, at its sole discretion, require MHS to terminate the original Assessor and to engage a new Assessor in accordance with this CAP. Prior to requiring such action, HHS shall provide a written explanation to the CR explaining the rationale for HHS's decision. In such event, MHS must engage a replacement Assessor in accordance with this CAP within thirty (30) days of the termination of the previous Assessor.

In the event that the Assessor resigns while the CAP is in effect, MHS shall nominate a replacement Assessor using the same process as described herein

for appointing a replacement Assessor who is removed for cause at the instigation of either MHS or HHS.

g. <u>Validation Review</u>. In the event HHS, in its discretion, determines or has reason to believe that: (a) one or more Assessor Reports fail to conform to the requirements of this CAP; or (b) one or more Assessor Reports are factually inaccurate or otherwise improper or incomplete, HHS may, in its sole discretion, conduct its own review to determine whether the Assessor Report(s) comply with the requirements of this CAP and/or are factually inaccurate, incorrect or otherwise improper ("Validation Review").

Prior to initiating a Validation Review, HHS shall notify the CR of its intent to do so and provide a written explanation of why HHS believes such a review is necessary. To resolve any concerns raised by HHS, the CR may request a meeting with HHS to discuss the results of any Assessor Review or Assessor Report submissions or findings; present any additional or relevant information to clarify the results of the Assessor Review or Assessor Report to correct the inaccuracy; and/or propose alternatives to the proposed Validation Review. The CR shall provide any additional information as may be requested by HHS under this section in an expedited manner. HHS will attempt in good faith to resolve any concerns with the CR prior to conducting a Validation Review. However, the final determination as to whether or not to proceed with a Validation Review shall be made at the sole discretion of HHS.

3. HHS's Authority Is Not Superseded. The use of an assessor does not affect or limit, in any way, HHS's authority to investigate complaints against MHS or conduct additional compliance reviews of MHS under any applicable statute or regulation that HHS administers.

## E. Internal Reporting

1. Procedure for Internal Reporting. MHS shall require all members of its workforce who have access to ePHI to report to the CR at the earliest possible time any violation of MHS's policies and procedures related to the HIPAA Rules of which they become aware. Within sixty (60) days of HHS's approval of the CR's Internal Monitoring Plan, MHS shall develop a written procedure for such reporting ("Internal Reporting Procedure") and shall submit the Internal Reporting Procedure to HHS for its comment and approval. The review and approval process of the Internal Reporting Procedure shall be identical to that of the Internal Monitoring Plan, as set out in this CAP.

While the CAP is in effect, MHS may determine from time to time to revise or amend the Internal Reporting Procedure; such revisions or amendments may only take effect after the CR has presented them to HHS for review and approval and made any changes that HHS may reasonably request.

Pursuant to the Internal Reporting Procedure, whenever MHS or the CR learns that a member of its workforce may have violated MHS's policies and procedures related to the HIPAA Rules, the CR, with the full cooperation of MHS, shall promptly investigate the allegations raised and shall document each investigation in writing. If MHS determines that a member of its workforce has failed to comply with MHS's policies and procedures related to the HIPAA Rules, the CR shall notify both the Assessor and HHS in writing of the finding within thirty (30) days of such determination. Such violation findings shall be known as "Reportable Events." The CR's written report to HHS and the Assessor shall include the following information:

- a. A complete description of the Reportable Event, including the relevant facts, the persons involved, the date, time and place on which the events occurred, and the provision(s) of the implicated requirement; and
- b. A description of the actions taken by MHS and/or the CR to mitigate any harm and any further steps that they plan to take to address the problems that gave rise to the violation(s) and prevent them from recurring.
- 2. If no Reportable Events occur during any one Reporting Period, as defined in this CAP, MHS shall so inform HHS in its Annual Report for that Reporting Period.

# F. Annual Reports

- The one-year period after HHS's last approval of the policies and procedures required by this CAP, and each subsequent one-year period during the Compliance Term as defined in this CAP, shall each be known as a "Reporting Period." MHS shall submit to HHS a report with respect to the status of and findings regarding its compliance with this CAP for each Reporting Period ("Annual Report"). Each Annual Report shall include:
  - a. An attestation signed by the CR attesting that the revision or implementation of policies and procedures required under this CAP: (a) have been adopted;
    (b) are being implemented; and (c) have been distributed to all MHS workforce members, workforce members of affiliated physician practices, business associates, and vendors;
  - b. An attestation signed by the CR listing all of MHS's locations, facilities, affiliates, etc. under its system, the name under which each such location is doing business, the corresponding mailing address, phone number and fax number for each location, and attesting that each location has complied with the obligations of this CAP;
  - c. A summary of Reportable Events identified during the Reporting Period and the status of any corrective or preventative action(s) taken by MHS relating to each Reportable Event;

d. An attestation signed by the CR stating that he or she has reviewed the Annual Report, has made a reasonable inquiry regarding its content, and believes that, upon such inquiry, the information is accurate and truthful.

# VI. Document Retention

MHS shall maintain for inspection and copying, and shall provide to OCR upon request, all documents and records relating to compliance with this CAP for six (6) years from the Effective Date.

## VII. Requests for Extensions and Breach Provisions

MHS is expected to fully and timely comply with all provisions of its CAP obligations.

### A. <u>Timely Written Requests for Extensions</u>

MHS may, in advance of any due date in this CAP, submit a timely written request for an extension of time to perform any act or file any notification or report required by this CAP. A "timely written request" is defined as a request in writing received by HHS at least five (5) business days prior to the date by which any act is due to be performed or any notification or report is due to be filed. It is within HHS's sole discretion as to whether to grant or deny the extension requested.

## B. Notice of Breach and Intent to Impose Civil Monetary Penalty (CMP)

The Parties agree that a breach of this CAP by MHS constitutes a breach of the Agreement. Upon a determination by HHS that MHS has breached this CAP, HHS may notify MHS of (1) MHS's breach; and (2) HHS's intent to impose a CMP pursuant to 45 C.F.R. Part 160 for the Covered Conduct set forth in section I, paragraph 2 of the Agreement and any other conduct that constitutes a violation of the HIPAA Rules.

### C. Response

MHS shall have thirty (30) days from the date of receipt of the Notice of Breach and Intent to Impose CMPs from HHS to demonstrate to HHS's satisfaction that:

- 1. MHS is in compliance with the obligations of this CAP that HHS cited as the basis for the breach;
- 2. The alleged breach has been cured; or
- 3. The alleged breach cannot be cured within the 30-day period, but that (a) MHS has begun to take action to cure the breach; (b) MHS is pursuing such action with due diligence; and (c) MHS has provided to HHS a reasonable timetable for curing the breach.

# D. Imposition of CMP

If at the conclusion of the 30 day period, MHS fails to meet the requirements of Section VII, Paragraph C to HHS's satisfaction, HHS may proceed with the imposition of a CMP against MHS pursuant to 45 C.F.R. Part 160 for the Covered Conduct set forth in section I, paragraph 2 of the Agreement and any other conduct that constitutes a violation of the HIPAA Rules. HHS shall notify MHS in writing of its determination to proceed with the imposition of a CMP.

For South Broward Hospital District d/b/a Memorial Healthcare System

Aurelio Fernandez

President, Chief Executive Officer and

Administrator

South Broward Hospital District d/b/a

Memorial Healthcare System

For United States Department of Health and Human Services

Timothy Noonan

Regional Manager, Southeast Region

Office for Civil Rights