



»»» JUNE 2024 NEWSLETTER

UNITEDHEALTH CYBERATTACK DISRUPTS HEALTHCARE SERVICES

In late May 2024, UnitedHealth, one of the largest health insurers in the U.S., was hit by a significant ransomware cyberattack, leading to widespread operational disruptions. The attack encrypted crucial data, severely impacting healthcare providers insurance verification and billing. This forced many to revert to manual processes, causing delays in patient care and administrative chaos. The cyberattack on UnitedHealth underscores the increasing threat cybercriminals pose to the healthcare sector, highlighting the urgent need for robust cybersecurity measures to protect critical infrastructure and sensitive patient data.



BRANCH UPDATE

Executive

On May 21, 2024, Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed a bill aimed at ensuring equal access to insurance for all Michigan residents. The new law prohibits the use of non-driving factors, such as credit scores, education, and occupation, in determining insurance rates. This legislation seeks to eliminate discriminatory practices in the insurance industry, promoting fairness and potentially lowering rates for many policyholders across the state.

Legislative

The Michigan Legislature made significant strides in healthcare legislation by advancing bill THB 5114. This bill addresses gaps in the Mental Health Code by recognizing certified nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists-certified, and physician assistants as clinical providers. This alignment is crucial for mitigating healthcare workforce shortages, especially in behavioral health.

Judicial

Medicare's new drug negotiation powers have stirred significant controversy, with drugmakers challenging the program through multiple lawsuits. They argue that the government is overstepping by dictating prices. However, a judge's ruling in Ohio favored the government, with other decisions pending. If Medicare prevails, negotiated prices could save billions for both the program and individual patients. Conversely, a win for drugmakers could mean persistently high prices.



»»» MOTOWN MEMO

Henry Ford Health System and Michigan Central Station have inked a noteworthy five-year agreement, solidifying a strategic partnership between the healthcare giant and the iconic Detroit landmark. This collaboration signifies a convergence of healthcare and real estate, with far-reaching implications for both entities and the communities they serve.