





## Allow Paper Claims and Extended Grace Period in Aftermath of Attack

We also recommend that HHS take steps to allow and encourage paper claims for an extended grace period following the complete restoration of Change Healthcare's systems. Currently, practices are backlogged on administrative tasks and claims submissions and are also facing the choice of reconnecting to the Change Healthcare systems or choosing a new clearinghouse. There is a learning curve for physicians when adopting these new clearinghouses, and physicians should not be forced to choose between providing care and completing administrative tasks disrupted by this incident. Allowing paper claim submission during this transition period and for months after would allow physicians to place their primary

## Improve the Security of the Health Care Infrastructure

As HHS continues to work with physician partners, Change Healthcare, and UnitedHealth to address these issues, ACP strongly encourages special attention to be paid to the ongoing and rising cybersecurity and privacy risks within the health care infrastructure. We encourage the Finance Committee to consider legislation to ensure that HHS and federal agencies responsible for protecting and securing health data must guarantee that these delays, barriers, and breaches are not repeated in future cyberattacks. These gaps must be addressed in future rulemaking, and appropriate penalties must be assessed due to any adverse findings via investigation.

## Conclusion

We thank the Senate Finance Committee for holding this hearing and their ongoing efforts to hold Change Healthcare and UnitedHealth accountable for their actions in the aftermath of this attack. The College will continue to give feedback to the Finance Committee and HHS and inform our members' perspectives during this challenging time. We ask that you keep us posted on your ongoing investigation and any new information that may be helpful to our physicians. Please do not hesitate to contact Brian Buckley, our Senior Associate for Legislative Affairs at [bbuckley@acponline.org](mailto:bbuckley@acponline.org) if you have any questions regarding this statement.