

STATE OF WASHINGTON  
SNOHOMISH COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

STATE OF WASHINGTON,  
  
Plaintiff,  
  
v.  
  
PREMERA BLUE CROSS,  
  
Defendant.

NO. **19 2 06171 31**  
  
CONSENT DECREE  
  
[CLERK'S ACTION REQUIRED]

**I. JUDGMENT SUMMARY**

- |     |                                  |   |
|-----|----------------------------------|---|
| 1.1 | Judgment Creditor:               | State of Washington   |
| 1.2 | Judgment Debtors:                | Premera Blue Cross  |
| 1.3 | Total Judgment Amount:           | \$5,432,677.04  |
| 1.4 | Post Judgment Interest Rate:     | 12% per annum   |
| 1.5 | Attorneys for Judgment Creditor: | Tiffany L. Lee<br>Andrea M. Alegrett<br>Assistant Attorneys General                       |
| 1.6 | Attorneys for Judgment Debtors:  | Curt R. Himeline<br>Theodore J. Kobus III<br>Patrick H. Haggerty<br>Baker & Hostetler LLP |

1.7 Plaintiff, the Attorney General of the State of Washington ("State") conducted an investigation and commenced this action pursuant to the Health Insurance Portability and

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1 Accountability Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-191, 110 Stat. 1936, as amended by the Health  
2 Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act, Pub. L. No. 111-5, 123 Stat. 226,  
3 as well as the Department of Health and Human Services (“HHS”) Regulations, 45 C.F.R. §§  
4 160 *et seq.* (collectively “HIPAA”) and the Consumer Protection Act, RCW 19.86.

5 1.8 Plaintiff appears by and through its attorneys Robert W. Ferguson,  
6 Attorney General, Tiffany L. Lee, and Andrea M. Alegrett, Assistant Attorneys General; and  
7 Premera Blue Cross as defined in Paragraph 3.14 (“PREMERA”), appears by and through their  
8 attorneys, Curt R. Hinehline, Theodore Kobus, III, and Patrick H. Haggerty.

9 1.9 Plaintiff and PREMERA stipulate to the entry of this Consent Decree by the Court  
10 without the taking of proof and without trial or adjudication of any fact or law.

11 1.10 Plaintiff alleges that on March 17, 2015, Premera publicly announced a data security  
12 incident involving its computer network system which resulted in the unauthorized disclosure of  
13 certain consumers’ personal information and protected health information.

14 1.11 Plaintiff and PREMERA agree that this Consent Decree does not constitute  
15 evidence or an admission regarding the existence or non-existence of any issue, fact, or violation of  
16 any law alleged by Plaintiff.

17 1.12 PREMERA recognizes and states that this Consent Decree is entered into  
18 voluntarily and that no promises or threats have been made by the Attorney General’s Office or any  
19 member, officer, agent or representative thereof to induce it to enter into this Consent Decree, except  
20 as provided herein.

21 1.13 PREMERA waives any right they may have to appeal from this Consent Decree.

22 1.14 PREMERA further agrees that it will not oppose the entry of this Consent Decree  
23 on the grounds the Consent Decree fails to comply with Rule 65(d) of the Rules of Civil Procedure,  
24 and hereby waives any objections based thereon.

1 1.15 PREMERA further agrees that this Court shall retain jurisdiction of this action for  
2 the purpose of implementing and enforcing the terms and conditions of the Consent Decree and for  
3 all other purposes.

4 The Court finding no just reason for delay,

5 NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED as follows:

6 **II. PARTIES AND JURISDICTION**

7 2.1 Plaintiff is Attorney General of the State of Washington.

8 2.2 Defendant is Premera Blue Cross, a Washington non-profit corporation with its  
9 principal office located at 7001 220th St. SW, Building 1, Mountlake Terrace,  
10 Washington 98043.

11 2.3 This Court has jurisdiction of the subject matter of this action, jurisdiction over  
12 the parties to this action, and venue is proper in this Court. RCW 4.12.

13 2.4 PREMERA consents to the filing of this Consent Decree in a county where the  
14 Attorney General maintains an office for the limited purpose of resolving the claims at issue.

15 2.5 Jurisdiction is proper because PREMERA has transacted business within  
16 Washington or has engaged in conduct impacting Washington or its residents at all times relevant  
17 to the claims at issue.

18 2.6 This Consent Decree is entered pursuant to and subject to Revised Code of  
19 Washington 19.86 *et seq.*

20 **III. DEFINITIONS**

21 3.1 "COVERED SYSTEMS" shall mean all components, including but not limited  
22 to, assets, technology, and software, within the PREMERA NETWORK that are used to collect,  
23 process, transmit, and/or store PERSONAL INFORMATION or PROTECTED HEALTH  
24 INFORMATION.

25 3.2 "CONSUMER PROTECTION LAWS" shall mean the Consumer Protection Act,  
26 RCW 19.86.

1           3.3     “DESIGNATED PRIVACY OFFICIAL” shall mean the individual designated  
2 by PREMERA who is responsible for the development and implementation of the policies and  
3 procedures as required by 45 C.F.R. § 164.530(a).

4           3.4     “DESIGNATED SECURITY OFFICIAL” shall mean the individual designated  
5 by PREMERA who is responsible for the development and implementation of the policies and  
6 procedures as required by 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(2).

7           3.5     “EFFECTIVE DATE” shall be July 11, 2019.

8           3.6     “ENCRYPTED” shall refer to the existing industry standard to encode or obscure  
9 data at rest or in transit. As of the EFFECTIVE DATE, the existing industry standard shall be  
10 AES 256-bit encryption or Transport Layer Security (TLS) 1.2, or their equivalents.

11          3.7     “GLBA” shall mean the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, Pub. L. No. 106-102, 113  
12 Stat. 1338.

13          3.8     “HIPAA” shall mean the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of  
14 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-191, 110 Stat. 1936, as amended by the Health Information Technology  
15 for Economic and Clinical Health Act, Pub. L. No. 111-5, 123 Stat. 226, as well as the  
16 Department of Health and Human Services (“HHS”) Regulations, 45 C.F.R. §§ 160 *et seq.*

17          3.9     “HIPAA SECURITY RULE” shall mean the Security Standards for the  
18 Protection of Electronic Protected Health Information, 45 C.F.R. Part 160 and Part 164, Subparts  
19 A and E.

20          3.10    “HIPAA PRIVACY RULE” shall mean the Standards for Privacy of Individually  
21 Identifiable Health Information, 45 C.F.R. Part 160 and Part 164, Subparts A and E.

22          3.11    “MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION” means authentication through  
23 verification of at least two of the following authentication factors: (i) Knowledge factors, such  
24 as a password; or (ii) Possession factors, such a token or text message on a mobile phone; or  
25 (iii) Inherence factors, such as a biometric characteristic.



1           4.2    Injunctions.  PREMERA shall engage in or refrain from engaging in the practices  
2 as identified in this Consent Decree.

3           4.3    **COMPLIANCE PROGRAM:**

4           a.     PREMERA shall perform a comprehensive review and assessment of the  
5 effectiveness of its compliance program (“Compliance Program”) pursuant to the terms of  
6 Paragraph 5.2.

7           b.     PREMERA shall ensure that its Compliance Program is reasonably  
8 designed to ensure compliance with applicable federal and state laws related to data security and  
9 privacy.

10          c.     PREMERA shall continue to employ an executive or officer who shall be  
11 responsible for implementing, maintaining, and monitoring the Compliance Program (for ease,  
12 hereinafter referred to as the “Compliance Officer”). The Compliance Officer shall have the  
13 appropriate background or experience in compliance, including appropriate training in compliance  
14 with HIPAA, GLBA, and applicable state laws relating to privacy or data security.

15          d.     The Compliance Officer shall continue to oversee PREMERA’s  
16 Compliance Program, and shall function as an independent and objective body that reviews and  
17 evaluates compliance within PREMERA. The Compliance Officer shall develop a process for  
18 evaluating compliance risks and determining priorities, reviewing compliance plans, and ensuring  
19 follow-up to compliance issues identified occurs within a reasonable timeframe and that processes  
20 are in place for determining and implementing appropriate disciplinary and corrective actions when  
21 violations arise.

22          e.     PREMERA shall continue to ensure that the Compliance Officer has direct  
23 access to the Chief Executive Officer and the Audit and Compliance Committee of the Board of  
24 Directors.

1 f. PREMERA shall ensure that its Compliance Program continues to receive  
2 the resources and support necessary to ensure that the Compliance Program functions as required  
3 and intended by this Consent Decree.

4 g. PREMERA may satisfy the implementation and maintenance of the  
5 Compliance Program and the safeguards required by this Consent Decree through review,  
6 maintenance, and, if necessary, updating of an existing compliance program or existing safeguards,  
7 provided that such existing compliance program and existing safeguards meet the requirements set  
8 forth in this Consent Decree.

9 4.4 **INFORMATION SECURITY PROGRAM:**

10 a. PREMERA may satisfy the implementation and maintenance of the  
11 Information Security Program and the safeguards and controls required by this Consent Decree  
12 through review, maintenance, and, if necessary, updating of an existing information security  
13 program or existing controls and safeguards, provided that such existing compliance program and  
14 existing safeguards and controls meet the requirements set forth in this Consent Decree.

15 b. PREMERA shall implement, maintain, regularly review and revise, and  
16 comply with a comprehensive information security program (“Information Security Program”) that  
17 is reasonably designed to protect the security, integrity, availability, and confidentiality of the  
18 PERSONAL INFORMATION or PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION that PREMERA  
19 collects, stores, transmits, and/or maintains.

20 c. PREMERA’s Information Security Program shall document the  
21 administrative, technical, and physical safeguards appropriate to:

- 22 (i). The size and complexity of PREMERA’s operations;  
23 (ii). The nature and scope of PREMERA’s activities; and  
24 (iii). The sensitivity of the PERSONAL INFORMATION or  
25 PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION that PREMERA collects, stores, transmits, and/or  
26 maintains.

1           d.       As part of its Information Security Program, PREMERA will not trust  
2 traffic on the PREMERA NETWORK. In order to trust the traffic, PREMERA shall:

3                   (i).       Regularly monitor, log, and inspect all network traffic, including  
4 log-in attempts, through the implementation of hardware, software, or procedural mechanisms that  
5 record and examine such activity;

6                   (ii).       Ensure that every device, user, and network flow is authorized and  
7 authenticated; and

8                   (iii).       Only allow access by users of the PREMERA NETWORK to the  
9 minimum extent necessary and require appropriate authorization and authentication prior to  
10 allowing any such access.

11           e.       The Information Security Program shall be designed to:

12                   (i).       Protect the security, integrity, availability, and confidentiality of  
13 PERSONAL INFORMATION and PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION;

14                   (ii).       Protect against any threats to the security, integrity, availability, or  
15 confidentiality of PERSONAL INFORMATION and PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION;

16                   (iii).       Protect against unauthorized access to or use of PERSONAL  
17 INFORMATION and PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION and minimize the likelihood of  
18 harm to any consumer;

19                   (iv).       Define and periodically reevaluate a schedule for retention of  
20 PERSONAL INFORMATION and PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION and for its  
21 destruction when such information is no longer needed for business purposes;

22                   (v).       Restrict access within the PREMERA NETWORK based on  
23 necessity and job function, including but not limited to by restricting access to the PERSONAL  
24 INFORMATION and PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION within the PREMERA  
25 NETWORK;

1 (vi). Assess the number of users on PREMERA's applications and  
2 retire any application with no active users and that no longer have a business purpose;

3 (vii). Restrict the ability of PREMERA employees and vendors to access  
4 the PREMERA NETWORK via personal devices (e.g., smartphones, tablets, personal laptops);  
5 PREMERA shall permit access only based on a business need. If required, the access shall be  
6 restricted to only the data, systems, and other network resources required for the vendor's or  
7 employee's job. Any access to the PREMERA NETWORK via a personal device shall be reviewed  
8 on a regular basis to determine if the vendor's or employee's job function requires this access.  
9 Furthermore, this access shall be provided via a secured connection to the PREMERA NETWORK  
10 via VPN and MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION or other greater security safeguards; and

11 (viii). Restrict the ability of PREMERA's employees and vendors to use  
12 PREMERA assets (critical and non-critical) to access personal email, and social media, and file-  
13 sharing sites. For PREMERA's employees, PREMERA shall only permit access to non-  
14 PREMERA resources based on a business need.

15 f. PREMERA may satisfy the implementation and maintenance of the  
16 Information Security Program and the safeguards required by this Consent Decree through  
17 review, maintenance, and, if necessary, updating, of an existing information security program or  
18 existing safeguards, provided that such existing information security program and existing  
19 safeguards meet the requirements set forth in this Consent Decree.

20 g. PREMERA shall employ an executive or officer who shall be responsible  
21 for implementing, maintaining, and monitoring the Information Security Program (for ease,  
22 hereinafter referred to as the "Chief Information Security Officer"). The Chief Information  
23 Security Officer shall have the appropriate background or experience in information security and  
24 HIPAA compliance. PREMERA shall ensure that the Chief Information Security Officer is a  
25 separate position from the Chief Information Officer, and shall serve as PREMERA's  
26 DESIGNATED SECURITY OFFICIAL. The Chief Information Security Officer shall have

1 direct access to the Chief Executive Officer and the Audit and Compliance Committee of the  
2 Board of Directors.

3 h. PREMERA shall ensure that the role of the Chief Information Security  
4 Officer includes directly advising PREMERA's Board of Directors, Chief Executive Officer,  
5 and Chief Information Officer on the management of PREMERA's security posture, the security  
6 risks faced by PREMERA, the security implications of PREMERA's decisions, and the  
7 adequacy of PREMERA's Information Security Program. The Chief Information Security  
8 Officer shall meet with, and provide an oral or written update to: (1) the Board of Directors on  
9 at least an annual basis; (2) the Chief Executive Officer at least every two months; (3) the Chief  
10 Information Officer on at least a twice per month basis; and (4) the DESIGNATED PRIVACY  
11 OFFICIAL at least every two months. The Chief Information Security Officer shall inform the  
12 Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Information Officer, and the DESIGNATED PRIVACY  
13 OFFICIAL of any material unauthorized intrusion to the PREMERA NETWORK within forty-  
14 eight (48) hours of discovery of the intrusion. A material unauthorized intrusion is any intrusion  
15 to the PREMERA NETWORK that affects or may affect any PROTECTED HEALTH  
16 INFORMATION or PERSONAL INFORMATION.

17 i. PREMERA shall ensure that the Chief Information Security Officer and  
18 Information Security Program receive the resources and support necessary to ensure that the  
19 Information Security Program functions as intended by this Consent Decree.

20 j. PREMERA shall ensure that employees who are responsible for  
21 implementing, maintaining, or monitoring the Information Security Program, including but not  
22 limited to the Chief Information Officer and Chief Information Security Officer, have sufficient  
23 knowledge of the requirements of the Consent Decree.

24 k. At least once each year, PREMERA shall provide training on  
25 safeguarding and protecting consumer PERSONAL INFORMATION and PROTECTED  
26 HEALTH INFORMATION to all employees who handle such information, and its employees

1 responsible for implementing, maintaining, or monitoring the Information Security Program.  
2 PREMERA's Information Security Program shall be designed and implemented to ensure the  
3 appropriate and timely identification, investigation of, and response to SECURITY  
4 INCIDENTS.

5 1. PREMERA shall provide its DESIGNATED PRIVACY OFFICIAL with  
6 appropriate training to ensure the official is able to implement the requirements of and ensure  
7 compliance with the HIPAA PRIVACY AND SECURITY RULES.

8 m. PREMERA shall provide its DESIGNATED SECURITY OFFICIAL  
9 with appropriate training to ensure the official is able to implement the requirements of and  
10 ensure compliance with the HIPAA SECURITY RULE.

11 n. PREMERA shall maintain a written incident response plan to prepare for  
12 and respond to SECURITY INCIDENTS. PREMERA shall revise and update this response plan,  
13 as necessary, to adapt to any changes to the PREMERA NETWORK and its COVERED  
14 SYSTEMS. Such a plan shall, at a minimum, identify and describe the following phases:

- 15 (i). Preparation;
- 16 (ii). Investigation, Detection and Analysis;
- 17 (iii). Containment;
- 18 (iv). Notification and Coordination with Law Enforcement;
- 19 (v). Eradication;
- 20 (vi). Recovery;
- 21 (vii). Consumer and Regulator Notification and Remediation; and
- 22 (viii). Post-Incident Analysis (Lessons Learned).

23 o. For each SECURITY INCIDENT, PREMERA shall create a report that  
24 includes a description of the SECURITY INCIDENT and PREMERA's response to that  
25 SECURITY INCIDENT ("Security Incident Report"). The Security Incident Report shall be  
26 made available for the Third-Party Assessment as described in Paragraph 5.1.

1 p. PREMERA shall make reasonable efforts to ensure that any service  
2 providers or vendors it employs that handle PERSONAL INFORMATION or PROTECTED  
3 HEALTH INFORMATION shall (1) have safeguards in place to protect any of PERSONAL  
4 INFORMATION, or PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION, and (2) notify PREMERA  
5 promptly after discovering any potential compromise of the confidentiality, integrity, or  
6 availability of PERSONAL INFORMATION or PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION that  
7 is held, stored or processed by the service provider or vendor on behalf of PREMERA.

8 **4.5 PERSONAL INFORMATION, PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION**  
9 **AND MEDICAL INFORMATION SAFEGUARDS AND CONTROLS:**

10 a. On an annual basis, PREMERA shall review, and if necessary update, its  
11 data retention policies to ensure that its PERSONAL INFORMATION and PROTECTED  
12 HEALTH INFORMATION within the PREMERA NETWORK is only collected, stored,  
13 maintained, and/or processed to the extent necessary to accomplish the intended purpose in using  
14 such information.

15 b. PREMERA shall implement, maintain, regularly review and revise, and  
16 comply with policies and procedures to ENCRYPT PERSONAL INFORMATION and  
17 PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION, whether the information is transmitted  
18 electronically over a network or is stored on any media, whether it be static, removable, or  
19 otherwise.

20 c. PREMERA shall not make any representations or material omissions of fact  
21 that are capable of misleading consumers regarding the extent to which PREMERA maintains  
22 and/or protects the privacy, security, confidentiality, or integrity of any PERSONAL  
23 INFORMATION or PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION collected from or about  
24 consumers.

25 **4.6 SPECIFIC TECHNICAL SAFEGUARDS AND CONTROLS:**

26 a. Asset Inventory and Managing Critical Assets:

1 (i). PREMERA shall, within one hundred and eighty days (180) days  
2 of the EFFECTIVE DATE of this Consent Decree, implement and maintain a configuration  
3 management database that contains an asset inventory for all known Critical Assets that  
4 identifies: (a) the name of the asset; (b) the version of the asset; (c) the owner of the asset; (d) the  
5 asset's location within the PREMERA NETWORK; (e) whether the asset is a Critical Asset;  
6 and (f) the date that each security update or patch was applied. PREMERA shall apply the highest  
7 rating it uses for any asset that either it uses to collect, store, transmit, or use PERSONAL  
8 INFORMATION or PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION ("Critical Assets").

9 (ii). PREMERA shall, within one year of the EFFECTIVE DATE of  
10 this Consent Decree, implement and maintain an asset inventory for all assets that identifies:  
11 (a) the name of the asset; (b) the version of the asset; (c) the owner of the asset; (d) the asset's  
12 location within the PREMERA NETWORK; (e) whether the asset is a Critical Asset; and (f) the  
13 date that each security update or patch was applied.

14 b. Mapping and Encryption of Sensitive Data:

15 (i). PREMERA shall, within nine (9) months of the EFFECTIVE  
16 DATE, identify and map all locations where PERSONAL INFORMATION or PROTECTED  
17 HEALTH INFORMATION is collected, stored, received, maintained, processed or transmitted  
18 within the PREMERA network. PREMERA shall perform this identification and mapping  
19 procedure at least annually. Any such documentation must be made available for inspection for the  
20 Assessment as described in Paragraph 5.1.

21 (ii). PREMERA shall ensure that electronic PERSONAL  
22 INFORMATION or PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION that is stored at rest or is in  
23 transmission is ENCRYPTED except where PREMERA determines that ENCRYPTION is not  
24 reasonable and appropriate and it documents the rationale for this decision.

25 c. Segmentation: PREMERA shall implement and maintain segmentation  
26 protocols and related policies that are reasonably designed to properly segment the PREMERA

1 NETWORK, which shall, at a minimum, ensure system functionality and performance to meet  
2 business needs while also mitigating exposure to the enterprise network in the event of an attack  
3 or malicious intruder access. Additionally, PREMERA shall regularly evaluate, and as  
4 appropriate, restrict and disable any unnecessary ports of service on the PREMERA  
5 NETWORK.

6 d. Penetration Testing: PREMERA shall engage a third-party vendor to  
7 perform an annual penetration test to the PREMERA NETWORK, and shall ensure any risks or  
8 vulnerabilities identified are risk assessed, prioritized, and addressed under PREMERA'S  
9 Information Security Program. The parties understand and agree that addressing a risk may  
10 include remediation or alternate risk mitigation efforts based on the risk assessment in  
11 Paragraph 4.6(e).

12 e. Risk Assessment: PREMERA shall conduct an accurate and thorough  
13 risk assessment on any material risks and/or vulnerabilities identified by its internal auditors or  
14 through penetration testing as required by Paragraph 4.6(d) within thirty (30) days of  
15 identification of the risk or vulnerability to the PREMERA NETWORK and its COVERED  
16 SYSTEMS. PREMERA shall rate each vulnerability on a risk-based rating scale developed by  
17 PREMERA that takes into account cybersecurity best practices and risk to PERSONAL  
18 INFORMATION and PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION. PREMERA shall ensure that  
19 risks or vulnerabilities that threaten the safeguarding or security of any PERSONAL  
20 INFORMATION or PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION maintained on the PREMERA  
21 NETWORK shall be addressed and remediated as expeditiously as possible. PREMERA shall  
22 document in writing any decision not to address a risk or vulnerability that threatens the  
23 safeguarding or security of any PERSONAL INFORMATION or PROTECTED HEALTH  
24 INFORMATION maintained on the PREMERA NETWORK.

25 (i). The risk assessment shall include an accurate and thorough  
26 assessment of the potential risks and vulnerabilities to the confidentiality, integrity, and availability

1 of electronic protected health information held as required by HIPAA Security Rule, 45 C.F.R. §  
2 164.308(a)(1)(ii)(A).

3 (ii). PREMERA shall implement and maintain a corresponding risk-  
4 assessment program designed to identify and assess risks to the PREMERA NETWORK. In cases  
5 where PREMERA deems quantitative risk to be acceptable, PREMERA shall generate and retain a  
6 report demonstrating how such risks are to be managed in consideration of the risk to PERSONAL  
7 INFORMATION and PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION, and the cost or difficulty in  
8 implementing effective countermeasures. All reports shall be maintained by the Chief Information  
9 Security Officer and be available for inspection by its DESIGNATED PRIVACY OFFICIAL, and  
10 the Third-Party Assessor described in Paragraph 5.1 of this Consent Decree.

11 f. Secure Network Communications: PREMERA shall implement and  
12 maintain controls that filter incoming emails for potential phishing attacks or other fraudulent  
13 emails and that establish strong peer-to-peer communications between its employees and  
14 vendors. In addition, PREMERA will secure external communications to limit the ability of an  
15 attacker or malicious intruder to communicate from the PREMERA NETWORK to unknown IP  
16 addresses.

17 g. Access Control and Account Management: PREMERA shall implement  
18 and maintain appropriate controls to manage access to accounts and shall take into account whether  
19 the user is on a PREMERA device or a non-PREMERA device, such as a personal device, and  
20 whether the user is physically located at a PREMERA site or connecting to PREMERA through a  
21 remote connection.

22 (i). PREMERA shall, within nine (9) months of the EFFECTIVE  
23 DATE, implement and maintain appropriate controls to manage access to, and use of, all  
24 administrator, service, and vendor accounts with access to PERSONAL INFORMATION or  
25 PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION. Such controls shall include, without limitation,  
26 (1) strong passwords, (2) password confidentiality policies, (3) password-rotation policies, (4)

1 MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION or any other equal or greater authentication protocol for  
2 identity management, and (5) appropriate safeguards for administrative level passwords.

3 (ii). PREMERA shall implement and maintain appropriate controls to  
4 manage access to, and use of, all PREMERA employee user accounts with access to PERSONAL  
5 INFORMATION or PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION.

6 (iii). PREMERA shall implement and maintain appropriate  
7 administrative processes and procedures to store and monitor the account credentials and access  
8 privileges of employees who have privileges to design, maintain, operate, and update the  
9 PREMERA NETWORK.

10 (iv). PREMERA shall implement and maintain appropriate policies for  
11 the secure storage of account passwords, including, without limitation, hashing passwords stored  
12 online using an appropriate hashing algorithm that is not vulnerable to a collision attack, and an  
13 appropriate salting policy.

14 (v). PREMERA shall implement and maintain adequate access controls,  
15 processes, and procedures, the purpose of which shall be to grant access to the PREMERA  
16 NETWORK only if the user is properly authorized and authenticated.

17 (vi). PREMERA shall immediately disable access privileges for all  
18 persons whose access to the PREMERA NETWORK is no longer required or appropriate.  
19 PREMERA shall limit access to PERSONAL INFORMATION or PROTECTED HEALTH  
20 INFORMATION by persons accessing the PREMERA NETWORK on a least-privileged basis.

21 (vii). PREMERA shall regularly inventory the users who have access to  
22 the PREMERA NETWORK in order to review and determine whether or not such access remains  
23 necessary or appropriate. PREMERA shall regularly compare employee termination lists to user  
24 accounts to ensure access privileges have been appropriately terminated. At a minimum, such  
25 review shall be performed on a quarterly basis. When the privileges, including for any disabled  
26

1 accounts, are determined to be no longer necessary for any business function, PREMERA shall  
2 terminate access privileges for those accounts.

3 (viii). PREMERA shall implement and maintain network endpoint (e.g.,  
4 devices and PCs) security by using network access controls to identify devices accessing the  
5 PREMERA NETWORK, such as an identity-based network access controller or a similar product.

6 h. File Integrity and End-point Monitoring: PREMERA shall deploy and  
7 maintain controls designed to provide near real-time and/or real-time notification of  
8 unauthorized access to PERSONAL INFORMATION or PROTECTED HEALTH  
9 INFORMATION. PREMERA shall, within six (6) months from the EFFECTIVE DATE of this  
10 Consent Decree, deploy and maintain controls designed to provide near real-time or real-time  
11 notification of modifications to any applications or systems that either contain or provide access  
12 to PERSONAL INFORMATION or PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION.

13 i. Controlling Permissible Applications: For servers in the PREMERA  
14 NETWORK, PREMERA shall deploy and maintain controls within one year of the EFFECTIVE  
15 DATE that are designed to block and/or prevent the execution of unauthorized applications  
16 within the PREMERA NETWORK, as prescribed in the implementation standards of the  
17 HITRUST framework. For clients (e.g., desktops, laptops, tablets), PREMERA shall maintain  
18 the controls prescribed in the implemented HITRUST framework designed to block and/or  
19 prevent the execution of unauthorized applications within the PREMERA NETWORK.  
20 Additionally, the controls will provide alerts when unauthorized applications attempt to execute  
21 on the PREMERA NETWORK.

22 j. Logging and Monitoring: PREMERA shall maintain reasonable policies,  
23 procedures, and controls the purpose of which shall be to properly monitor and log activities on  
24 the PREMERA NETWORK.

25 (i). PREMERA shall ensure that logs are automatically processed and  
26 aggregated, and then actively monitored and analyzed in real time or near real time.

1 (ii). PREMERA shall test at least twice per year, any software, hardware,  
2 or service used pursuant to this paragraph, to ensure it is properly configured, and regularly updated  
3 and maintained to ensure that all COVERED SYSTEMS are adequately logged and monitored.

4 k. Change Control: PREMERA shall implement and maintain policies and  
5 procedures reasonably designed to manage and document changes to the PREMERA  
6 NETWORK.

7 l. Updates/Patch Management: PREMERA shall maintain, keep updated, and  
8 support the software on the PREMERA NETWORK taking into consideration the impact a  
9 software update will have on data security in the context of the entire PREMERA NETWORK and  
10 its ongoing business and network operations, and the scope of the resources required to maintain,  
11 update and support the software. PREMERA shall deploy and maintain reasonable controls to  
12 ensure that risks posed by software no longer supported by the manufacturer are adequately  
13 addressed and reasonably mitigated.

14 **V. ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS TO THE ATTORNEY**

15 **GENERAL**

16 5.1 Information Security Assessment:

17 a. PREMERA shall, for a period of three years (3) after the EFFECTIVE  
18 DATE of this Consent Decree, obtain an annual information security assessment and report from  
19 a third-party professional (“Third-Party Assessor”) using procedures and standards generally  
20 accepted in the profession (“Third-Party Assessment”), commencing within one (1) year after  
21 the EFFECTIVE DATE of this Consent Decree. The Third Party Assessor’s report on the Third-  
22 Party Assessment shall:

23 (i). Set forth the specific administrative, technical, and physical  
24 safeguards maintained by PREMERA;

25 (ii). Explain the extent to which such safeguards are appropriate in light  
26 of PREMERA’s size and complexity, the nature and scope of PREMERA’s activities, and the

1 sensitivity of the PERSONAL INFORMATION or PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION  
2 maintained by PREMERA;

3 (iii). Assess and certify the extent to which the administrative, technical,  
4 and physical safeguards that have been implemented by PREMERA meet the requirements of the  
5 Information Security Program;

6 (iv). Assess and certify the extent to which PREMERA is complying with  
7 the requirements of the Information Security Program;

8 (v). Specifically review and evaluate the reasonableness of any decision  
9 to not encrypt PERSONAL INFORMATION and PERSONAL HEALTH INFORMATION, in  
10 compliance with Paragraph 4.6(b);

11 (vi). Specifically review and evaluate PREMERA's response to  
12 SECURITY INCIDENTS in the Security Incident Report (see Paragraph 4.4(o)); and

13 (vii). Specifically review and evaluate PREMERA's compliance with the  
14 penetration testing requirements set forth in Paragraph 4.6(d); the risk assessment requirements set  
15 forth in Paragraph 4.6(e); the logging and monitoring requirements set forth in Paragraph 4.6(j); the  
16 change control requirements set forth in Paragraph 4.6(k); and the updates/patch management  
17 requirements set forth in Paragraph 4.6(l).

18 b. The Third-Party Assessor shall be a Certified Information Systems  
19 Security Professional ("CISSP") or a Certified Information Systems Auditor ("CISA"), or a  
20 similarly qualified person or organization; have at least five (5) years of experience evaluating the  
21 effectiveness of computer system security or information system security; and must be approved by  
22 the MULTISTATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

23 c. Each Third-Party Assessment must be completed within sixty (60) days  
24 after the end of the reporting period to which the Third-Party Assessment applies. PREMERA shall  
25 provide a copy of the Third-Party Assessor's Report on the Third-Party Assessment to the  
26 Washington Attorney General's Office within thirty (30) days of the completion of the report.

1 d. The State of Washington shall, to the extent permitted by the laws of the  
2 State of Washington, treat such Third-Party Assessor's Report as exempt from disclosure under the  
3 relevant public records laws.

4 e. The Washington Attorney General's Office may provide a copy of the  
5 Third-Party Assessor's Report received from PREMERA to another Attorney General's Office  
6 upon request, and that Attorney General shall, to the extent permitted by the laws of Washington,  
7 treat such Third-Party Assessor's Report as exempt from disclosure under the relevant public  
8 records laws.

9 5.2 Compliance Program Assessment: Within one-hundred-and-eighty (180) days of  
10 the EFFECTIVE DATE of this Consent Decree, PREMERA shall conduct an assessment of the  
11 structure of and personnel responsible for PREMERA's Compliance Program (the "Compliance  
12 Program Assessment"). The Compliance Program Assessment required by this paragraph shall  
13 be conducted by a third-party professional (the "Compliance Program Assessor").

14 a. The Compliance Program Assessor shall use procedures and standards  
15 generally accepted in the profession.

16 b. The Compliance Program Assessor shall:

17 (i). Examine the effectiveness of the PREMERA's Compliance  
18 Program;

19 (ii). Examine the independence and effectiveness of the structure of  
20 employees responsible for PREMERA's Compliance Program;

21 (iii). Identify any potential conflicts-of-interest that may hinder  
22 PREMERA's obligation to comply with state and federal laws related to data security and privacy;  
23 and

24 (iv). Examine PREMERA's HIPAA Risk Analysis Assessment and  
25 Mitigation Plan, as required by 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(1)(ii)(A) and relevant guidelines provided  
26 by the Office for Civil Rights.

1 c. The findings of the Compliance Program Assessment shall be  
2 documented in a report (the "Compliance Program Assessor's Report"). PREMERA shall  
3 provide a copy of the Compliance Program Assessor's Report to the Washington Attorney  
4 General's Office within thirty (30) days of the completion of the Compliance Program  
5 Assessment.

6 d. The State of Washington shall, to the extent permitted by the laws of the  
7 State of Washington, treat such Compliance Program Assessor's Report as exempt from  
8 disclosure under the relevant public records laws.

9 e. The Washington Attorney General's Office may provide a copy of the  
10 Compliance Program Assessor's Report received from PREMERA to another Attorney  
11 General's Office upon request, and that Attorney General shall, to the extent permitted by the  
12 laws of Washington, treat such Compliance Program Assessor's Report as exempt from  
13 disclosure under the relevant public records laws.

14 5.3 PREMERA will make reasonable good faith efforts to address any concerns and  
15 implement recommendations made by the Third-Party Assessor or the Compliance Assessor.

## 16 VI. DOCUMENT RETENTION

17 6.1 PREMERA shall retain and maintain the reports, records, information and other  
18 documentation required by this Consent Decree for a period of no less than three (3) years after  
19 the document is finalized, last edited, or last used.

## 20 VII. PAYMENT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

21 7.1 No later than thirty (30) days after the EFFECTIVE DATE, PREMERA shall pay  
22 a total of \$5,432,677.04 to the Attorney General's Office. The Attorney General shall use the  
23 funds for recovery of its costs and attorneys' fees in investigating this matter, future monitoring  
24 and enforcement of this Consent Decree, future enforcement of RCW 19.86, or for any lawful  
25 purpose in the discharge of the Attorney General's duties at the sole discretion of the Attorney  
26 General.

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**VIII. RELEASE**

8.1 Following full payment of the amount due under this Consent Decree, the Plaintiff shall release and discharge PREMERA from all civil claims that the Attorney General has or could have brought under the Consumer Protection Act, RCW 19.86; Notice of Security Breaches Law, RCW 19.255, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-191, 110 Stat. 1936, as amended by the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act, Pub. L. No. 111-5, 123 Stat. 226, as well as the Department of Health and Human Services (“HHS”) Regulations, 45 C.F.R. §§ 160 *et seq.*, and Washington Nonprofit Corporation Act, RCW 24.03, arising out of PREMERA’s conduct related to, and the Attorney General’s investigation of, the data security incident first publicly announced March 17, 2015. Nothing contained in this paragraph shall be construed to limit the ability of the Attorney General to enforce the obligations that PREMERA has under this Consent Decree. Further, nothing in this Consent Decree shall be construed to create, waive, or limit any private right of action or any action brought by any state agency other than the Attorney General’s Office.

8.2 The obligations and other provisions of this Consent Decree set forth in Sections 4.4 and 4.6 shall expire at the conclusion of the five (5) year period after the EFFECTIVE DATE of this Consent Decree, unless they have expired at an earlier date pursuant to their specific terms. The obligations and other provisions of this Consent Decree set forth in Paragraphs 4.3 and 4.5 shall expire at the conclusion of the ten (10) year period after the EFFECTIVE DATE of this Consent Decree, unless they have expired at an earlier date pursuant to their specific terms. Other sections and paragraph with specified time periods shall expire as detailed in those sections and paragraphs. Nothing in this paragraph should be construed or applied to excuse PREMERA from its obligation to comply with all applicable state and federal laws, regulations and rules.

8.3 Notwithstanding any term of this Consent Decree, any and all of the following forms of liability are specifically reserved and excluded from the release as to any entity or

1 person, including PREMERA:

2 a. Any criminal liability that any person or entity, including PREMERA, has  
3 or may have to the States.

4 b. Any civil or administrative liability that any person or entity, including  
5 PREMERA, has or may have to the States under any statute, regulation or rule giving rise to,  
6 any and all of the following claims:

- 7 (i). State or federal antitrust violations;  
8 (ii). State or federal securities violations; or  
9 (iii). State or federal tax claims.

10 **IX. MEET AND CONFER**

11 9.1 If any Attorney General determines that PREMERA has failed to comply with  
12 any of Sections IV and V of this Consent Decree, and if in the Attorney General's sole discretion  
13 the failure to comply with this Consent Decree does not threaten the health or safety of the  
14 citizens of the Attorney General's State and/or does not create an emergency requiring  
15 immediate action, the Attorney General will notify PREMERA in writing of such failure to  
16 comply and PREMERA shall have thirty (30) days from receipt of such written notice to provide  
17 a good faith written response to that Attorney General, including either a statement that  
18 PREMERA believes it is in full compliance or otherwise a statement explaining how the  
19 violation occurred, how it has been addressed or when it will be addressed, and what PREMERA  
20 will do to make sure the violation does not happen again. The Attorney General may agree to  
21 provide PREMERA more than thirty (30) days to respond.

22 9.2 Nothing herein shall be construed to exonerate any failure to comply with any  
23 provision of this Consent Decree, or limit the right and authority of an Attorney General to initiate  
24 a proceeding for any failure to comply with this Consent Decree after receiving the response from  
25 PREMERA described in Paragraph 9.1, if the Attorney General determines that an enforcement  
26 action is in the public interest.



1 apprise, its Chief Executive Officer, Chief Information Officer, Chief Information Security  
2 Officer, Compliance Officer, DESIGNATED PRIVACY OFFICIAL, DESIGNATED  
3 SECURITY OFFICIAL, Chief Legal Officer, and its Board of Directors within (30) days of the  
4 EFFECTIVE DATE. To the extent PREMERA hires or replaces any of the above listed officers,  
5 counsel or Directors, PREMERA shall deliver a copy of this Consent Decree to their  
6 replacements within thirty (30) days from the date on which such person assumes his/her position  
7 with PREMERA.

8 10.7 No court costs, if any, shall be taxed upon the Attorney General. To the extent  
9 there are any court costs associated with the filing of this Consent Decree, PREMERA shall pay  
10 all such court costs.

11 10.8 PREMERA shall not participate in any activity or form a separate entity or  
12 corporation for the purpose of engaging in acts or practices in whole or in part that are prohibited  
13 by this Consent Decree or for any other purpose that would otherwise circumvent any term of  
14 this Consent Decree. PREMERA shall not knowingly cause, permit, or encourage any other  
15 persons or entities acting on its behalf, to engage in practices prohibited by this Consent Decree.

16 10.9 PREMERA agrees that this Consent Decree does not entitle it to seek or to obtain  
17 attorneys' fees as a prevailing party under any statute, regulation, or rule, and PREMERA further  
18 waives any right to attorneys' fees that may arise under such statute, regulation, or rule.

19 10.10 This Consent Decree shall not be construed to waive any claims of sovereign  
20 immunity Washington may have in any action or proceeding.

21 10.11 If any portion of this Consent Decree is held invalid by operation of law, the  
22 remaining terms of this Consent Decree shall not be affected and shall remain in full force and  
23 effect.

24 10.12 Whenever PREMERA shall provide reports to the Washington Attorney General  
25 under Section V of this Consent Decree, those requirements shall be satisfied by sending the  
26 report to: ATTN: Tiffany L. Lee and Andrea M. Alegrett, Assistant Attorneys General,

Consumer Protection Division, Office of the Attorney General, 800 Fifth Avenue #2000, Seattle,  
WA 98104.

10.13 Any notice or report provided by the Attorney General to PREMERA under Section IX of this Consent Decree shall be satisfied by sending notice to: Chief Legal Officer, Premera Blue Cross, 7001 220th St., SW, MS 316, Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043.

10.14 All documents to be provided under this Consent Decree shall be sent by United States mail, certified mail return receipt requested, or other nationally recognized courier service that provides for tracking services and identification of the person signing for the notice or document, and shall have been deemed to be sent upon mailing. The parties may update their designee or address by sending written notice to the other party informing it of the change.

10.15 Jurisdiction is retained by the Court for the purpose of enabling any party to the Consent Decree to apply to the Court at any time for such further orders and directions as may be necessary or appropriate for the construction or the carrying out of this Consent Decree, for the modification of any of the injunctive provisions hereof, for enforcement of compliance herewith, and for the punishment of violations hereof, if any.

10.16 The clerk is ordered to enter this Consent Decree forthwith.

#### XI. DISMISSAL AND WAIVER OF CLAIMS

11.1 Upon entry of this Consent Decree, all claims in this matter, not otherwise addressed by this Consent Decree are dismissed.

DONE IN OPEN COURT this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JUDGE COURT COMMISSIONER

1 Approved for entry and presented by:

Approved for Entry, Notice of Presentation  
Waived:

2 ROBERT W. FERGUSON  
3 Attorney General

4   
5 TIFFANY LEE, WSBA #51979  
6 ANDREA M. ALEGRETT, WSBA #50236  
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