



Citizens' Council for Health Freedom

Health Freedom Minute

July 17, 2018

Who's Got Your Emergency Contact Info?

You've probably shared the address and phone number of your husband or sister or mother when the clinic or hospital asks you for emergency contact information. After all, who wouldn't want next of kin to be notified if they suddenly had a heart attack?

But you might want to re-think sharing that data. Researchers in New York City mined data from the records of 2 million patients and were able to identify 7.4 million familial relationships. Using the electronic health record, they estimated the likelihood of all these people getting certain genetic conditions.

In short, it was genetic research without the DNA. And it looks like most patients did not give their consent. So before you share the data, think about how it could be used.

"Study Predicts Patients' Disease Risks Using Emergency Contacts," Jessica Kim Cohen, Health IT & CIO Report, May 21, 2018: <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/data-analytics-precision-medicine/study-predicts-patients-disease-risks-using-emergency-contacts.html>

"Disease Heritability Inferred from Familial Relationships Reported in Medical Records," Fernanda C.G Polubriaginof et al, Cell, April 2018: [https://www.cell.com/cell/fulltext/S0092-8674\(18\)30525-7](https://www.cell.com/cell/fulltext/S0092-8674(18)30525-7)

Presented daily by Twila Brase, President, Citizens' Council for Health Freedom.

*The Health Freedom Minute is now heard in 47 states:
Mornings M-Th at AM1280 (The Patriot) in MN and 91.5 AM WHKC (FreedomFM) in OH,
afternoons on American Family Radio, and daily on the CSN network
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