"Big Data" Contracts with Health Care Systems *

Without Patient Consent

(Authorized by HIPAA)

1. Google's 'Project Nightingale' Gathers Personal Health Data on Millions of Americans - *Search giant is amassing health records from Ascension facilities in 21 states; patients not yet informed.* By Rob Copeland, The Wall Street Journal, Nov. 11, 2019.
https://www.wsj.com/articles/google-s-secret-project-nightingale-gathers-personal-health-data-on-millions-of-americans-11573496790

"Google began Project Nightingale in secret last year with St. Louis-based Ascension, a Catholic chain of 2,600 hospitals, doctors' offices and other facilities, with the data sharing accelerating since summer, according to internal documents. The data involved in the initiative encompasses lab results, doctor diagnoses and hospitalization records, among other categories, and amounts to a complete health history, including patient names and dates of birth. Neither patients nor doctors have been notified. At least 150 Google employees already have access to much of the data on tens of millions of patients, according to a person familiar with the matter and the documents."

[NOTE] Subsequent article reveals the project includes medical records of 50 million Americans
https://www.wsj.com/articles/behind-googles-project-nightingale-a-health-data-gold-mine-of-50-million-patients-11573571867

2. Cerner expands AWS relationship with new machine learning initiatives - *At Amazon Web Services re:Invent, CEO Brent Shafer said Cerner aims to migrate its core applications to AWS – and is working with it on AI projects focused on readmissions and clinician burnout.* By Mike Miliard, HealthcareIT News, Dec. 3, 2019.
https://www.healthcareitnews.com/news/cerner-expands-aws-relationship-new-machine-learning-initiatives

"In an expansion of their ongoing collaboration, Cerner has chosen Amazon Web Services as its preferred artificial intelligence and machine learning provider – and will continue to use AWS technologies to improve patient and provider experience, boost population health efforts and tackle healthcare costs. Cerner will work to migrate core applications to AWS as part of the collaborative agreement, officials said. In addition, the company is standardizing its AI and machine learning workloads on AWS to develop new predictive technology."

3. Mayo Clinic, Google launch major new 10-year partnership - *Google Cloud will securely store the health system's data, while working with Mayo clinicians to apply AI and machine learning to an array of complex use cases.* By Mike Miliard, HealthcareIT News, Sept. 11, 2019.
https://www.healthcareitnews.com/news/mayo-clinic-google-launch-major-new-10-year-partnership

"Google Cloud will secure and store Mayo Clinic's patient data. Mayo Clinic, while also deploying an array or cloud computing and machine learning tools to help researchers there solve a variety of complex health challenges. Mayo Clinic will continue to control access and use of its patient data using rigorous long-standing institutional controls, officials say, and will authorize the use of data in projects to create new health care insights and solutions in conjunction with various technology partners, including Google. Google will also open a new office in Rochester, Minnesota, enabling its engineers to work alongside Mayo Clinic researchers, physicians, IT staff, data scientists and others."

4. Microsoft, Humana ink 7-year strategic partnership to leverage cloud, AI and voice technologies - *Humana wants to use cloud and artificial intelligence technologies to improve members' health outcomes and make their healthcare experiences simpler to navigate. (Microsoft)* By Heather Landi, FierceHealthcare, Oct. 21, 2019. https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/payer/microsoft-humana-ink-7-year-strategic-partnership-to-leverage-cloud-ai-and-voice-technologies

"Insurance giant Humana and Microsoft announced a seven-year strategic partnership to use cloud and artificial intelligence technologies to build predictive solutions and intelligent automation to support Humana members and their care teams. Humana plans to use Microsoft's technology muscle, specifically its Azure cloud, Azure AI and Microsoft 365 collaboration technologies, as well as interoperability standards like Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) to provide care teams with real-time access to information through a cloud platform, the companies said."

5. Microsoft and Providence St. Joseph Health announce strategic alliance to accelerate the future of care delivery - *Providence St. Joseph Health, in partnership with Microsoft, will develop and deploy new health care technologies that will harness the power of Microsoft Azure and AI with clinical expertise to transform the care experience.* Microsoft News Center, July 8, 2019. https://news.microsoft.com/2019/07/08/microsoft-and-providence-st-joseph-health-announce-strategic-alliance-to-accelerate-the-future-of-care-delivery/

"Microsoft Corp. and Providence St. Joseph Health today announced a multi-year strategic alliance to accelerate the digital transformation of health care. The alliance will combine the power of Microsoft's cloud, artificial intelligence (AI), research capabilities, and collaboration tools with the clinical expertise and care environments of Providence St. Joseph Health, one of the largest health systems in the country. The two organizations will develop a portfolio of integrated solutions designed to improve health outcomes and reduce the total cost of care by combining technologies from Microsoft with Providence St. Joseph Health's data and clinical expertise. The alliance will accelerate the health care industry's adoption of the cloud and enable data-driven clinical and operational decision-making by leveraging Microsoft Azure, and industry interoperability standards like FHIR, to integrate siloed data sources in a cloud environment that enables security and compliance."

*All emphasis in quotes added