State Health Exchange Data Sharing Promotes Major Privacy Intrusions According to Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom

Minnesota Leads in State Exchange Implementation, Provides a Glimpse at Information to be Shared with Feds

Key Facts:

• Minnesota currently leads state health insurance exchange implementation with its recently signed, $41 million contract with Maximus, Inc.
• Contract details follow federal regulations and provide a glimpse at what information must be shared based on the law.
• Information shared with federal agencies by state health insurance exchanges based on the Enroll UX 2014 initiative is intrusive and compromises patient privacy.

ST. PAUL, Minn. – As states struggle to implement state health exchanges required by the ACA, some are leading the way with implementation. One such state is Minnesota, whose recent, $41 million contract with Maximus, Inc., catapults Minnesota to the lead position of state exchange enactment.

While some applaud swift exchange implementation, the Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom is warning Minnesotans and concerned citizens nationwide to be wary of the intrusions into Americans’ health privacy and the broad sharing of information that occurs in health exchanges.

“Some believe that registration with a state entity will equate to more privacy, but most citizens remain ignorant of the broad data sharing that is authorized to occur within Obamacare,” said Twila Brase, President of the Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom. “The information gathered and shared as outlined in the Maximus – State of Minnesota contract Exhibit D has
few limits and goes far beyond healthcare requirements. These types of information are mandated to be provided and shared under Obamacare, despite the imposition it poses on personal privacy.”

“Exhibit D” of Maximus’ contract with the State of Minnesota – titled “Data Sharing Agreement” – is extensive and acknowledges that through the Minnesota Health Insurance Exchange, Maximus will have access to:

- Private, confidential, and welfare data as outlined in Minnesota statutes
- Traditional written, chemical and electronic health records
- Federal tax information
- Records as defined by the Privacy Act of 1974, and
- Other data subject to applicable state and federal statutes, rules, and regulations affecting the storage, collection, use and dissemination of private or confidential information.

Based on the Maximus contract with Minnesota, it seems that no data about an individual is exempt from the eyes of Maximus – and thereby to the eyes of the federal agencies authorized to access this information from the health insurance exchanges based on the Enroll UX 2014 initiative and the regulations embedded within Obamacare.

Enroll UX 2014, under the guise of providing a first-class website user experience, is working with federal government agencies to develop the enrollment form and portal, to ensure that all elements comply with federal law – which authorizes access of information in all states’ health insurance exchange by five federal agencies: HHS, IRS, SSA, DHS, and DOJ.

“Minnesota is a model of state health exchange implementation,” said Brase, “And in its example, we see the sweeping breaches of privacy allowed by both federal regulation and state contracts with exchange implementation companies. It is a model that is extremely intrusive and must be stopped.”

###

Twila Brase is president and co-founder of the Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom. She has been called one of the “100 Most Powerful People in Health Care” and one of “Minnesota’s 100 Most Influential Health Care Leaders.” The Council’s efforts have stopped government-issued treatment directives, added informed consent requirements for access to patient data and defeated a proposed Health Insurance Exchange. Brase’s daily radio commentary, Health Freedom Minute, is a 60-second radio address on pressing health care issues. She has been interviewed by CNN, Fox News, Minnesota Public Radio, NBC Nightly News, NBC’s Today Show, NPR, New York Public Radio, the Associated Press, Modern Healthcare, TIME, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post and The Washington Times, among others.