

*****NEWS RELEASE*****

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Socialized Medicine—American Style

Citizens' Council for Health Freedom Says New and Costly ICD-10 Coding System Is a Terrible Intrusion on Patient Privacy and Forces Doctors to Focus on Codes Rather Than Care

ST. PAUL, Minn.—In just a few days, every doctor in America must use a new system of medical codes that provides government, health plans and researchers more details than ever on both patients and doctors.

And despite high costs, gross intrusion and huge opposition, lawmakers refused to stop it, says ***Citizens' Council for Health Freedom (CCHF, www.cchfreedom.org)***, a patient-centered national health freedom organization based in St. Paul, Minn., existing to protect health care choices, individualized patient care, and medical and genetic privacy rights.

Currently, says ***CCHF*** president and co-founder Twila Brase, doctors use about 14,000 diagnostic codes that are entered into patients' Electronic Health Records (EHRs). On Oct. 1, with the implementation of the new ICD-10 coding system, those codes will increase to 68,000, while the number of codes for inpatient hospital procedures increases from 4,000 to 87,000—for a grand total of 155,000 different codes!

The codes, used for billing and analysis, will report things like whether patients were injured in the park or a bedroom, or exactly which finger was broken, Brase said.

“If doctors don't use the government-imposed codes, they won't get paid,” she added. “This is socialized medicine, American-style.

“The codes will not only detail the exact body part getting treatment, but how you were injured, where you were when you got injured, and possibly what your physical appearance and behaviors were during the visit,” Brase continued. “These codes, part of a government and corporate ‘big data’ research agenda, will allow end-to-end profiling and analysis of patients and doctors. Your data will be placed on an international platform and broadly available to outsiders. This is a terrible intrusion into patients' privacy and forces physicians and other practitioners to be more concerned with rules and regulations rather than the treatment of their patients.”

Brase recently reported on the new coding system in **CCHF's** daily, 60-second [Health Freedom Minute](#) radio feature. Heard on approximately 350 stations nationwide, including 200 on the American Family Radio Network and 100 on the Bott Radio Network, Health Freedom Minute helps listeners learn more about the agenda behind health care initiatives, as well as steps they can take to protect their health care choices, rights and privacy.

“Without privacy, we have no control,” Brase said. “He who holds the data makes the rules. The Obama Administration is gathering our data to seize control of our doctors, now that EHRs are mandated as a way to impose Obamacare. And even more data will be in their hands with the implementation of this ICD-10 coding system.”

Recent Health Freedom Minute topics have included Obamacare, patient profiling, medical data privacy, socialized medicine, Medicaid expansion and the hacking of medical records. The program is free for stations to run; for details, contact Michael Hamilton at mhamilton@hamiltonstrategies.com or (610) 584-1096 or (215) 519-4838.

On Oct. 22, **CCHF** will host a special event, “Breaking Free from Obamacare,” with two conservative superstars. At its annual fundraising dinner, **CCHF** will welcome keynote speaker Dan Bongino, former Secret Service agent, bestselling author, the 2014 CPAC “Top 10 Under 40” Award Winner, guest radio host for Sean Hannity and Mark Levine, and a regular guest on Fox News, CNN, MSNBC and more. A special guest at the event will be Rich Weinstein, the “Father of Grubergate,” who discovered the videos where Affordable Care Act architect Jonathan Gruber admitted to deception to pass Obamacare.

The evening will enable **CCHF** to do what it does best—protect patients and doctors from government encroachment; distill complex health care issues into the easy-to-understand Health Freedom Minutes that air on more than 350 radio stations across the country; target the Achilles’ heel of health care policy; and keep the business of health care from destroying the caring mission of medicine. [Click here](#) for more information on the Oct. 22 event in Minneapolis.

For more information about **CCHF**, visit its web site at www.cchfreedom.org, its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/cchfreedom or its Twitter feed, @CCHFreedom.

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For more information or to interview Twila Brase, president and co-founder of *Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom*, contact Deborah Hamilton at 215-815-7716 or 610-584-1096, or Beth Harrison at 610-584-1096, Media@HamiltonStrategies.com.