

*****STATEMENT*****

For Immediate Release
May 29, 2019

Citizens' Council for Health Freedom Alerts Patients That Government Wants to Share Their Private Medical Records More Broadly

Public Comments to Department of Health and Human Services Due June 3

ST. PAUL, Minn.—[Citizens' Council for Health Freedom \(CCHF\)](#) is urging Americans to comment on a 690-page proposed rule from the federal Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) that would require electronic health records (EHRs) to be “interoperable,” easily accessible and sharable EHR to EHR nationwide and prohibit “information blocking.”

“This is a bad idea for multiple reasons,” said CCHF president and co-founder Twila Brase. “First, as noted by the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons (AAPS): ‘One major bug in this plan: operability is a prerequisite of interoperability and no credible argument can be made that the current crop of HHS-approved EHRs are operating in a manner beneficial to patients and the medical professionals caring for them.’

“Second, in [CCHF’s comments to HHS Secretary Alex Azar](#), we say, ‘The proposed fixes do not aim to fix the fundamental problems of the EHR, or the troubling use of them to violate patient rights and medical ethics. The real problem is the ubiquitous existence of poorly planned, hastily imposed government EHRs that were never built for patient care. This regulation prohibiting “information blocking,” which not everyone agrees even exists, will not solve that problem.’

“Third, there are dangerous risks to patient safety. An investigation by [Kaiser Health News and Fortune](#) revealed ‘instead of streamlining medicine, the governments [\$36 billion] EHR initiative has created a host of largely unacknowledged patient safety risks.’”

CCHF is encouraging comments to HHS by the deadline of 5 p.m. ET June 3 at [this link](#). Commenters can add their feedback to the rule in the space provided or tweak these suggested sample comments from CCHF to make them their own.

SAMPLE:

Dear Secretary Azar,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the “Interoperability, Information Blocking, and the ONC Health IT Certification Program” proposed rules.

I do not support the continuation of any mandates requiring further implementation of electronic health record technology. EHRs are being hacked by outsiders at ever-increasing rates and pose

a safety risk to patients. The federal government should stop spending valuable taxpayer dollars on this failed EHR experiment.

Patients should have control over the information in their EHRs and it should not be shared without the patient's consent. Today, the lack of interoperability is the public's main protection against HIPAA's permissive data-sharing.

EHRs were designed for billing purposes and data-sharing purposes—not for the care of patients. HHS should focus on protecting and empowering patients and doctors instead of placing more burdens upon them. Please stop pouring money into a program that harms patients, eliminates privacy and allows health plans and government to control what happens in the exam room.

In a new book, Brase writes extensively about the dangers of EHRs, the privacy-stealing HIPAA rule, socialized medicine, patient privacy, health freedom and the Affordable Care Act. Find ***“Big Brother in the Exam Room: The Dangerous Truth About Electronic Health Records”*** online wherever books are sold or at BigBrotherintheExamRoom.com.

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