



Citizens' Council for Health Freedom

Health Freedom Minute

February 20, 2020

Mayo Clinic Shares Patient Data With Google

The Mayo Clinic has a new ten-year partnership with Google. As part of the deal, Google is opening a new office in Rochester, Minnesota so its data engineers can work closely with Mayo researchers, doctors and data scientists.

This means that the medical records of patients from around the country and in fact, around the globe, will be open to Google analytics and data-mining. The authority to do this is unclear. Minnesota law requires patient consent, unlike the so-called federal “HIPAA privacy rule.”

The clinic claims patient data will be de-identified, but that’s no comfort. First, it well known that data can easily be reidentified these days. And second, it’s the patient’s personal data, but the patient isn’t being asked if they want Google to sift through all the private details of their personal lives.

“Mayo Clinic, Google Partner on Digital Health Analytics,” Bruce Japsen, Forbes, September 10, 2019: <https://bit.ly/2P53G3Z>

“Mayo Clinic, Google partner to use AI, patient data to catapult research,” Joseph Goedert, Health Data Management, September 11, 2019: <https://bit.ly/2ufvVWI>

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

*The Health Freedom Minute is now heard in 47 states:
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