



Citizens' Council for Health Freedom

Health Freedom Minute

April 29, 2019

Will Distracted Doctors Diagnose Well?

When doctors get out of medical school, they enter internship, the first year of residency. A new study finds that these interns spend 87 percent of their work time away from patients. In fact, 43 percent of the day is with the computer, not the patient. To be more specific, more than 10 hours of a 24-hour period were spent on the electronic health record. Only 13 percent of their day was on direct patient care.

This is particularly troubling given that studies find physicians are able to diagnose most patients simply by fully listening to their story, taking a thorough history and using direct observation. Will newer physicians still be able to do this?

“Study Finds First-Year Interns Spend 43% of Their Day Working on an EHR,” Greg Slabodkin, Health Data Management, April 16, 2019:
<https://www.healthdatamanagement.com/news/study-finds-first-year-interns-spend-43-of-their-day-on-ehr>

“Details Acquired from Medical History and Patients’ Experience of Empathy—Two Sides of the Same Coin,” Friedemann Ohm, et al., BMC Medical Education, 2013:
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3661386/>

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

*The Health Freedom Minute is now heard in 47 states:
Mornings M-Th at AM1280 (The Patriot) in MN and 91.5 AM WHKC (FreedomFM) in OH,
afternoons on American Family Radio, and daily on the CSN network
and Bott Radio Network.*