EHR Company Wants to Use 20M Patients for Research

The demographic, clinical, behavioral, family, and financial information in your computerized medical records are gold. UnitedHealth Group’s data division alone earned $8.1 billion in revenue in 2017. Now Epic, the electronic health records giant, is using their computerized record system to gather information from 20 million patients for research. So far nine health systems with a total of 7.7 million patients have agreed to release the data.

The systems participate by letting Epic use the patient data already housed in the Epic cloud-based electronic health record system the hospitals use. So far, no mention of patient consent. But under HIPAA, consent is not required.