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Do They Really Mean I Own It?

You’ve heard me say that HIPAA is not a privacy law. It opens up your medical records to 2.2 million entities plus government agencies if your doctor, hospital or health plan wants to share your data. Your consent is not required unless your state legislature has passed a privacy law instead of conforming to the federal no-privacy law.

But now, the federal Health Information Technology office says patient ownership of data is essential “to a lot of the things that need to be accomplished” for interoperability of data. If they mean it, you would have sole control. But until I hear how “patient ownership” is defined and where HIPAA fits in, I won’t believe it.

“Rucker suggests ONC policy (ONC Setting Directions),” Arthur Allen, POLITICO’s Morning eHealth, June 12, 2017.