EHRs Promote Tunnel Vision and Bad Patient Care

Dr. Jeffrey Singer warns about about the electronic health record or EHR. He writes, “They force me to physically turn my attention away from patients and toward a computer screen—a shift from individual care to IT compliance.”

He says he must fill out a government worksheet to show “meaningful use” of the EHR. He writes, “This rigidity inhibits my ability to tailor my questions and treatment to the patient’s actual medical needs. It promotes tunnel vision in which physicians become so focused on complying with the EHR work sheet that they surrender a degree of critical thinking and medical investigation.” So perhaps, listener, it’s time to ask Congress to end the EHR mandate.