April 20, 2016

Will Your Doctor Be Pinged?

A technology called PatientPing sends alerts to doctors whenever the doctor’s patient receives care from elsewhere. PatientPing will now be available statewide for all Vermont doctors. On one hand, you may like this. Your doctor could receive these alerts when you arrive in the emergency room, when you’re admitted to the hospital, after you’re sent to rehab and when you’re discharged home.

On the other hand, what if you want to see one doctor without the other knowing? What if you want to see a therapist or secretly get a second opinion? What if you want your care not to be announced to your doctor? Will patients be asked for their consent before the Ping? I hope so. If you have experience with PatientPing, let me know.

“A Ping a Day Keeps the Doctor Informed,” David Pittman, POLITICO Morning eHealth, April 12, 2016.