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Surveillance in the Exam Room

Imagine seeing a surveillance camera in the exam room. What would you do? Would you leave the room? Get up in a chair and cover the lens with a rubber glove? Tell the doctor to turn it off? Talk in whispers? I’ll bet you would remain as clothed as the moment you walked in.

You don’t realize it, but today almost every exam room is under surveillance. It’s called the electronic medical record. It gathers details about your visit, the doctor’s findings, the comments you make, diagnoses, your behavior, your family and sometimes even photographs and DNA. And it transmits this data far and wide without your consent. HIPAA allows it. Be careful what you say.


“Proposed Changes to Privacy Rule Won’t Ensure Privacy,” Sue Blevins, Health Freedom Watch (Institute for Health Freedom), September 2010.