EHRs Become Legal Problem for Doctors

Electronic health records are a problem. Politico reports that medical errors traced to the automation of the U.S. health care system are becoming a legal issue. This is because, unlike paper records, electronic records don’t always report what happened. For instance, the records of a patient with gangrene claimed her skin was normal. In addition, the record shows “repeated physician interviews with the patient – when she was comatose.”

In another case, all 3,000 pages of the patient’s electronic health record had the same date. As a result, the patient won a $10 million settlement. Politico notes that printouts of the electronic record can look different than what the doctor saw on the screen, leading judges to dismiss completely the doctor’s testimony.


Presented daily by Twila Brase, President, Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom.