Point-of-Care Prescription Surveillance

The government is tracking patient use of prescription drugs. Now they plan to give doctors access to their tracking database at the point of care. Projects in Ohio and Indiana, “will measure the effects of expanding and improving access to [the government’s] prescription drug monitoring programs.”

This program could be used to not only catch drug abusers. It could be used to track the doctor’s compliance with government treatment directives. In Ohio, they will track how doctor’s decisions are impacted when a “risk indicator” for drug abuse is added to the patient’s electronic medical record. So, what began as a surveillance program to catch crooks may someday be used to control care.