June 3, 2016

Mayo Clinic Gets Millions For Biobank

The Mayo Clinic just received a $142 million grant to build a biobank for President Obama’s precision medicine initiative. The Clinic will “use the funds to collect, store, and distribute biospecimens” of 1 million people, which will be sent to labs for “genetic and chemical analyses.”

What should you know? The Mayo Clinic already has a repository of biospecimens back to 1906. And Mayo’s patient information in its electronic health records will be accessible by Epic, the nation’s largest electronic medical records system. We have too often seen Mayo be a proponent of storage and use without patient consent. So I ask: will these individuals be fully informed before they give their consent?


“Testimony by Frank Iossi, Director of State Public Affairs for Mayo Clinic Rochester,” (given at hearing in Minnesota House), May 1, 2009.