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Patients Need Physicians Not Portals

The Obama administration has mandated that doctors follow “meaningful use” standards for electronic medical records. This requires doctors to get 5 percent of their patients to view their records and send a message to their doctor. Yes, doctors will be paid according to whether you comply.

A recent study says 22 percent of people surveyed would like to access their laboratory results, but another study found many people will not be able to understand them. That’s what doctors are for. If government’s requirement that patients access their records is intended to cut down on the need for patient-doctor interactions, it’s highly unlikely. Expect more calls or emails from concerned patients demanding explanations of what they see online.

“Study: Lab results confusing to many patients,” Arthur Allen, POLITICO Pro eHealth Whiteboard, August 20, 2014.


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

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