Clinics Using EHRs to Push HIV Testing for All

The Mayo Clinic’s electronic health records may soon tell doctors if a patient has not been screened for HIV. There’s a push to screen everyone age 18 to 64. This despite the fact that HIV is primarily limited to drug users and homosexual men, and only 1.2 million people are HIV-positive out of more than 300 million Americans. Perhaps this is just a plan to increase revenues from health plans, put it’s intrusive and an unethical use of the patient-doctor relationship.

One doctor, to get patients to agree to be tested, says, “We say this is something we normally do, we screen everybody.” But clearly that’s not true, yet patients anxious not to upset their doctors may find it hard to say no.