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HIPPA: A Notice of Disclosure Practices

Welcome to the Health Freedom Minute. This is Twila Brase president of Citizens' Council on Health Care.

Welcome to our third day on HIPAA and patient privacy.

Several years ago I asked a newly minted DFL legislator what the HIPAA form that he signed at his doctor’s office meant. He said, “It means that my medical records are between me and my doctor.”

Oh no it doesn’t, I told him. It means that you have read and understand the Notice of Privacy Practices which clearly states that your data can be shared hither and yon without your consent.

Yes, that’s correct. The Notice of Privacy Practices is actually a notice of Disclosure practices. The HIPAA no-privacy rule is a permissive rule allowing your doctors, hospitals, health plan and others to share your private data broadly. You may ask them not to, but by law they do not have to comply with your request.

More on HIPAA tomorrow. Get more information at healthfreedomminute.net.