May 31, 2011

Doctor Watson I Presume?

Welcome to the Health Freedom Minute. This is Twila Brase, president of Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom.

Would you trust a computer to be your doctor? Individualize your treatment decisions? Understand nuances?

Consider Watson, the IBM supercomputer that recently won Jeopardy! According to IBM, Watson is now being retooled to make medical diagnoses. It’s being fed medical textbooks and journals.

The Associated Press story makes it clear that IBM plans to sell physicians online access to Watson. Doctors will enter patient data and secure a list of possible diagnosis. But the article also says Watson will know if treatment guidelines are not being met. So there may be a reporting function from doctors back to IBM.

So, the real question is, will doctors someday turn off their brains when they turn on their computers?

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The Health Freedom Minute is now heard in 37 states: Mornings M-Th at AM1280 (The Patriot) in MN and 91.5 AM WHKC (FreedomFM) in OH and afternoons on American Family Radio.