June 8, 2011

**Health IT - Patient or Research Subject?**

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

GE Healthcare and Thomson Reuters have a joint venture to combine patient data for analysis and research. Your consent is not required. The two companies have already combined data on 30 million individuals.

The May 23rd news release says researchers and physicians will “gain new insights into patient treatment protocols, better enabling them to determine the ideal course of treatment while avoiding expensive options that do not deliver results.” Please define “results.” The treatment that does not work for one patient may be best for another.

The databases will provide comprehensive data on patients including heart rate, symptoms and more. Although the data is deidentified, how many patients would willingly participate in research focused on limiting their treatment options?

Sign up for our monthly Health Freedom Watch at healthfreedomminute.net.