



PATIENTS OVER PAPERWORK

We're putting patients first across all parts of our agency. The March issue of our "Patients over Paperwork" newsletter focuses on empowering patients through data.

How are we helping patients get & share their electronic medical records?

Since 2008, the healthcare industry has made major progress in using health information technology (health IT) but there's more work to be done. Last year, President Trump issued an [Executive Order](#) to promote healthcare choice and competition across the country. To support these goals, we're helping patients control their health data and make it easier to take their data with them as they move in and out of the healthcare system. This will let patients make informed choices about their care, leading to more competition and lower costs.

On March 6th, while at the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) Annual Conference, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Seema Verma announced a new Trump Administration initiative – [MyHealthEData](#) – which will give patients more control of their healthcare data.

The government-wide MyHealthEData initiative is led by the White House Office of American Innovation with participation from:

- The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
- CMS
- Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC)
- National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

The launch of MyHealthEdata would not have been possible without the leadership and vision of Jared Kushner and Chris Liddell who lead the White House's Office of American Innovation. Kudos to both of them for their hardwork and dedication.

Today, patients don't have full control of their healthcare information. MyHealthEData will help to change what keeps patients from having electronic access and control of their own health records from the device or application they choose. Through MyHealthEData, we'll make it clear that patients, as the center of the healthcare system, deserve to:

- Get a copy of their entire health record.
- Be able to share their data with anyone.

What are we doing to improve Health IT?

We're using every way we have to make sure patients have control of their data.

We started [Blue Button 2.0](#), a developer-friendly, standards-based API that lets people with Medicare connect their claims data to applications, services, and research programs they trust. When people with Medicare can get their claims information electronically, they'll have a much better beneficiary

experience. Data in a universal and secure digital format that can be shared, like Medicare's Blue Button 2.0, will allow people with Medicare to:

- Get their prescription record.
- Share their medical information with a new doctor.
- Let a research organization pre-populate medication lists during clinical trial enrollment.

We know data security is very important and we'll make sure only patients and their designated representatives can get and share their data. Medicare's Blue Button 2.0 is expected to increase competition among technology innovators so they find better ways to use claims data to serve patients' health needs.

More than 100 organizations, including some of the most notable names in technological innovation, have signed on to use Medicare's Blue Button 2.0. They'll develop applications for new tools to help patients manage their health.

We're also asking all insurers to follow our lead and let their patients access their digital claims. We believe that our private plan contractors should give people with Medicare the same benefits as Blue Button 2.0.

What are some other ways we're helping patients use their healthcare data?

Here are other ways we're helping patients use their healthcare data:

- Refocusing the Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program to interoperability and lowering the time and cost for health care providers to meet program requirements.
- Requiring health care providers to update their certified EHR systems to the most recent (2015 edition) version to make it easier for:
 - Patients to access their data.
 - Patient information to be shared between doctors and other health care providers.
- Incentivizing health care providers to ensure that a patient's data follows them after hospital discharge to their receiving health care provider, whether that be their primary care doctor or a skilled nursing facility.
- Easing documentation and billing requirements so doctors can spend more time with their patients.
- Giving provider incentives to share data securely, reducing unnecessary and duplicative tests.

How are we working across the government on health data?

All departments in the federal government are working together to reach the true potential of health information technology and make sure that healthcare data follows patients. Reaching interoperability, and with it giving all Americans and their providers access to health data, will empower patients and reduce waste, fraud and abuse.

We've heard that EHRs are one of the biggest frustrations for doctors and other clinicians, so we'll keep working with ONC to make EHRs easier to use and improve clinician experience.

The NIH is working on many projects, including [Sync for Science](#) and [All of Us](#), which let patients give their health data to research. As data moves to a universal digital format, it'll be easier for patients to participate in these studies.

How will improving Health IT reduce burden?

We believe that advances in interoperability will result in significantly lower burden on clinicians and patients. When doctors and nurses have all the information about a patient's health care at their fingertips as a result of seamless and secure data exchange with other providers, they can spend more time face-to-face with their patients and less time making phone calls and faxing requests for health records. The ready availability of this health information will also result in fewer duplicate tests and procedures, which are often done because doctors don't have access to results from the same tests or procedures done in another setting.

How can I learn more?

Learn more about [Patients over Paperwork](#).

Read a [fact sheet](#) and the [Administrator's speech](#).

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