



Effective Health Care

Patient Health Information Nomination Summary Document

Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- Policy issues related to patient health information does not fit within the domain of the Effective Health Care (EHC) Program. No further activity will be undertaken on this topic.

Topic Description

Nominator: Anonymous individual

Nomination Summary: The nominator discusses concerns with HIPAA and questions whether this policy should be revised.

Key Questions from Nominator:

1. How about studying the impact of keeping information from patients?
2. How about policy and procedures?
3. Should HIPAA be more readable?
4. Should a patient know that there could be a non-designated record set of his or her health information that he or she may have never known existed and that this fact is legal?
5. Does keeping information from the patient help or hinder the outcomes of his or her treatment?
6. Does allowing certain health care providers to okay release of information lead to increased costs?
7. Does this increase and prolong recovery?
8. Should this policy be reevaluated?

Considerations

- The topic does not meet EHC Program appropriateness criteria because it concerns policy issues, not the assessment of care delivery effectiveness issues or the comparative effectiveness of a health care drug, intervention, device, or technology. (For more information, see [http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/.](http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/))