

# Making Electronic Health Records Work for Patients

## The Ideal

Patients want lower healthcare costs, better health outcomes, more convenient interactions with their healthcare system, and better access to care. Innovation and innovation-driven competition will help. But the market can only foster these important outcomes if patients have better access to their health data and the ability to seamlessly transfer those data to whatever application, hospital, doctor, or insurer they choose to use.

Parents also need access to the records of their minor children in order to make sound decisions about their healthcare. Patients understand the importance of their healthcare data, even if they can't fully articulate how access will improve their own care.



**A majority** of patients want the ability to download their health records to an application on their cell phones.



**81%** of American adults want providers to be able to share data with other providers.

## The Problem

Today, gathering these records, whether electronic health records (EHRs) or hard copies, can require countless hours of tracking them down and making individual requests from providers.



The federal government's recent information blocking rules make it illegal for providers to deny a patient's request for records, but corresponding federal enforcement has lagged behind.



The EHR market is controlled by just a few prominent vendors. The lack of competition hurts the market and delays technological innovation for patients.



State law often fails to provide parents access to their children's health records.

## Policy Proposal

### Four steps to make electronic health records work for patients

1

**Impose** state level penalties to enforce federal anti-blocking measures and limit anti-competitive behavior of EHR systems and providers.

2

**Expand** the federal Patient Access Rule to state regulated insurance plans to improve patient access to records in their possession.

3

**Create** common sense state level exceptions to information blocking to protect providers and patients from harm.

4

**Protect** parental access to the health records of their minor children.

## The Benefits



### Patients

Get better access and more portable comprehensive health records. Parents of patients obtain clear access to the records of minor children, with appropriate exceptions.



### Providers

Can give access to patient health record applications, and engage in robust health information sharing allowing for improved care- coordination and more value-based opportunities.



### Payers

Can enhance visibility of clinical records for patients, improve opportunities for care-coordination, and increase health monitoring resulting in lower cost of care and improve health outcomes.



### Innovators

Can access patient-authorized health data that is currently controlled by a few EHR vendors, increasing competition and innovation.