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New Poll: 93% of Americans Want to Decide Individually Which Companies And Government Agencies Can See and Use Their Health Information.

Austin, TX --- Should anyone other than you control your personal health information in electronic health systems? **Across the board, Americans resoundingly say "NO."** [See Poll Results.](#)

Patient Privacy Rights, the nation's health privacy watchdog, worked with Zogby International to conduct an online survey of over 2000 adults to identify their views on privacy, access to health information, and health information technology (health IT). The results were overwhelmingly in favor of individual choice and control over personal health information.

[View the results and more information here.](#)

Ninety-seven percent (97%) of Americans believe that doctors, hospitals, labs, and health technology systems should not be allowed to share or sell their sensitive health information without consent. Insurance companies should **not** have access to electronic health records without permission either. Ninety-eight percent (98%) oppose insurance companies sharing or selling health information without consent.

"No matter how you look at it, Americans want to control their own private health information," said Patient Privacy Rights Founder, Deborah Peel, MD. "We asked the question, *'If you have health records in electronic systems, do **YOU** want to decide which companies and government agencies can see and use your sensitive data?'* Ninety-three percent (93%) said "Yes!"

Ninety-one percent (91%) of Americans want to be able to decide which individual people can see and use their health information. Americans are not just concerned about corporations snooping in their medicine cabinets, but also about researchers, nosy employees, and people with malicious intent, such as an ex-spouse or abusive partner.

[View more poll results and information here.](#)

A Patient-centered Health Care System:

Patient Privacy Rights advocates for a truly patient-centered healthcare system, where each person controls the use of personal health data and healthcare systems put patients first. We believe the most important element in a patient-centered health care system is a cheap,

practical, effective method to ensure that individuals can control and selectively share personal health information scattered across many locations, from doctors' offices, pharmacies, labs, and insurance companies to hospitals with those they choose. We recommend a 'one-stop-shop' website where we can set up consent directives or rules to guide the use and disclosure of all or part of our electronic health information. If a request to use or sell health data is not covered by our privacy rules, we can be 'pinged' on our cell phones or emailed for informed consent.

We call this solution the "*Do Not Disclose*" List. It will work like the national "Do Not Call" list. If your name is on the list, any organization that holds your sensitive health information from prescriptions to DNA, must first explain how your information will be used before you give permission. A large majority of people surveyed, seventy-eight percent (78%) said they would be somewhat likely (28%) or very likely (50%) to use a website that allows each person to decide who can see and use his/her sensitive health information. For more information on the "Do Not Disclose" list and petition, please see <http://patientprivacyrights.org/do-not-disclose/>. Or see FOX News interview where the "Do Not Disclose" list is described at: <http://patientprivacyrights.org/2010/03/fox-news-interview-dangers-of-electronic-medical-records/>

"Americans overwhelmingly believe that they are the only people in the right position to make decisions about how their information can be used. Researchers do not get a free pass," said Peel. Only five percent (5%) surveyed stated that the government, through laws and regulations, should make the decision on whether corporations and researchers can see and use the information in your health records without permission. Most individuals do not trust their doctors to make decisions for them. Just five percent (5%) believe that their physician or other health professional should have that power. Who should have the power? "You personally" according to eighty-seven percent (87%) of those responding. Policy makers and Congress need to think long and hard about Americans' strong, indisputable beliefs about their right to privacy, especially as they decide policies and funding for the nation's health systems.

A sampling of Zogby International's online panel, which is representative of the adult population of the US, was invited to participate. Slight weights were added to region, party, age, race, religion, gender, and education to more accurately reflect the population. The margin of error is +/- 2.2 percentage points. Margins of error are higher in sub-groups. The MOE calculation is for sampling error only. You can view the survey at: <http://patientprivacyrights.org/patient-privacy-poll/>

About Patient Privacy Rights:

Patient Privacy Rights is the nation's leading health privacy watchdog. Our mission is to ensure the right to control your medical privacy to protect jobs and opportunities. Patient Privacy Rights has over 10,000 members in all 50 states. We lead the trans-partisan Coalition for Patient Privacy representing over 10 million Americans.

[See more on the Coalition for Patient Privacy](#)