

Electronic Health Record: Patient's Role in Maintaining Health Information Accuracy

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Truths and Myths about Electronic Health Records

- All of my doctors talk with each other and know everything about my past medical history, medications, allergies and current medical problems.

False

- If I am seen in the emergency room or admitted to the hospital, all of my health records are available to all of my providers.

False

- My providers always update my medical record to accurately reflect my medical problems, medications and allergies.

False

Who Is Responsible for Maintaining the Accuracy of My Health Records?

I AM

Electronic Health Record Limitations

- Record database dependent upon the accuracy of the information submitted by patients/providers and recorded by providers and their staff.
- Is not an artificially intelligent application.
- Typically does not interface with other electronic records – Hospital vs. Clinic, Sharp vs. Scripps vs. UCSD

Physicians' responsibilities

- Provide care and arrange for appropriate referrals/ diagnostic testing/ follow up, prescribe medications, and discuss plan of care with the patient.
- Appropriately manage and document health maintenance/disease management issues.

Physicians must multitask.....

- Meet regulatory requirements for documentation
 - Billing coding and compliance- Evaluation and management documentation to support billing
- Appropriate documentation of informed consent – medical/legal risk management

What should I do?

- Monitor your medical records for accuracy.
- Keep a personal list of your past medical history, including dates of surgeries, and current problems.
- Maintain a list of current and past medications including doses and frequency and the reason that medications were discontinued.

- Maintain an accurate list of medication allergies or intolerances and dates.
- Maintain a list of immunizations and dates of administration.
- Maintain a list of all important medical diagnostic tests including mammograms, CT scans, and all radiographic procedures – concern regarding radiation exposure over time.
- Discuss the risk, benefits and alternatives to all therapies including diagnostic procedures.

- Have an advanced directive and keep it up to date. Advise your physicians, family and friends of its location.