



Encourages the Adoption of Better Privacy and Security Practices for Health Data

Patients should be able to get their electronic health records from their providers and insurers as easily as you can book an airline ticket and have the peace of mind that their data is secure.

The Lower Health Care Costs Act of 2019 will:

- Ensure the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) can successfully implement interoperability provisions of the 21st Century Cures Act.
- **Incentivize health care systems to keep your personal health information private and secure.**
 - First, according to HHS data, over 13 million electronic health records were hacked in 2018. When administering certain audits or fines related to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), this provision encourages HHS to consider whether **practitioners, hospitals, insurers, and health technology firms have updated security best practices** to protect patients' personal health information.
 - Second, at the doctor's office, everything, including your electronic health record, is covered by the privacy and security protections of HIPAA. Those protections don't always apply when you share your personal health information with third-party mobile applications. The Lower Health Care Costs Act will study what privacy protections currently apply to those third-party applications and what steps, if any, need to be taken to keep your health information private.