

# **THE VALUE OF CONSUMER ACCESS & USE OF ONLINE HEALTH RECORDS**

Giving individuals easy and secure access to their health information increases patient engagement and advances person-centered health.



# INDIVIDUALS NEED ACCESS TO THEIR FULL HEALTH RECORDS **TO ADDRESS INFORMATION GAPS**

1/3

who have seen a health care provider in the last year experienced at least one of the following gaps in information exchange.<sup>1</sup>



Had to bring an



Had to wait for



Had to redo a test or

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Had to provide their



Had to tell a health

X-ray, MRI, or other type of test result with them to the appointment

test results longer than they thought reasonable

procedure because the earlier test results were not available

medical history again because their chart could not be found

care provider about their medical history because they had not gotten their records from another health care provider

# **INDIVIDUALS CAN SERVE AS THE HUB OF INFORMATION EXCHANGE**



### INDIVIDUALS VALUE ONLINE ACCESS TO THEIR HEALTH RECORDS





**INDIVIDUALS VALUE ONLINE ACCESS TO THEIR HEALTH RECORDS.**<sup>1</sup>

information online found it useful<sup>21</sup>

## INDIVIDUALS ARE ENGAGING WITH THEIR HEALTH RECORDS ONLINE

**MORE THAN HALF** (55%) of individuals who were offered access VIEWED THEIR RECORD within the past year.<sup>15</sup>



# 6/10

people with online access say it improves their desire to do something about their health<sup>8</sup>

The more frequently individuals access their health information online, the more they report that it motivates them to do something to improve their health.<sup>8</sup>

Individuals are using their online access to address information gaps and manage their health.<sup>1</sup>



7/10

**67%** Used it to monitor their health



33% Shared it with someone else



35% Downloaded it



12% Sent it to an app/PHR

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67% OF U.S. ADULTS AGE 65 & **OLDER** say that accessing their medical information online is important.<sup>2</sup>



Individuals use of online medical records doesn't vary by age, setting (rural vs. urban) or race.<sup>16</sup>

The OpenNotes study showed that patients who access their medical records online feel more in control of their care and are more likely to take their medications as prescribed.<sup>19</sup>

For more information about efforts to empower individuals with their online health records visit www.HealthIT.gov/bluebutton.



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# A MAJORITY OF PROVIDERS ARE PROVIDING ONLINE ACCESS TO HEALTH INFORMATION



## **INCREASINGLY MORE PATIENTS HAVE ONLINE ACCESS**

In 2014, **6 out of 10 hospitals** provided their patients with the capability to **view, download, and transmit** their health information–a significant increase from the previous year.<sup>22</sup>



Nearly all hospitals allow patients to view their health information electronically. Most hospitals also allow patients to download & transmit their information.<sup>22</sup>



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There was a **42% increase** in the number of physicians\* who gave patients access to view, download, or transmit their electronic health information.<sup>23</sup>



The results here are based upon a nationally representative survey of ambulatory care, office-based physicians conducted by the National Center of Health Statistics (funded by ONC). This does not include hospitalists (e.g. physicians working in hospital settings) or physicians who do not directly interact with patients.

MEANINGFUL USE AS A SOURCE OF GROWTH



Over **75% OF ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS** and **90% OF ELIGIBLE HOSPITALS** have received **INCENTIVE PAYMENTS** for

participating in the Meaningful Use Program.<sup>18</sup>

*Meaningful Use requires participating providers and hospitals in Stage 2 to enable patients with a way to "view, download and transmit" their health information.* 



# MANY PHYSICIANS SUPPORT PATIENTS UPDATING THEIR HEALTH RECORDS



### ABOUT 80% OR MORE HEALTH RECORDS CONTAIN INACCURACIES<sup>5</sup>

Consumers can serve as a second pair of eyes on their data to improve the quality of their EHRs.

The majority of US doctors believe that patients should be able to update some or all of the standard information in their health record, including the following<sup>7</sup>



ONLINE ACCESS BOOSTS PATIENT RETENTION



say that having online access to their medical records has had a positive effect on their decision to stay with their physicians<sup>8</sup>



41%

would be willing to switch doctors to gain online access to their own electronic medical records.<sup>9</sup>

# **2.6x**

Kaiser Permanente patients with online access to key components of the electronic health record's patient portal, My Health Manager, are 2.6 times more likely than nonusers to remain Kaiser members.<sup>23</sup>

The OpenNotes study showed that patients who access their medical records online feel more in control of their care and are more likely to take their medications as prescribed.<sup>19</sup>

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