HHS Cracks Down on Health Data Blocking

Digital Health 09.12.25

HHS launched a major enforcement initiative to stop health data blocking, ensuring patients and the providers have easier access to their electronic health information. The agency is directing an increase in resources to support enforcement of information blocking rules promulgated under the 21st Century Cures Act of 2016 by the Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy/Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ASTP/ONC) and HHS Office of Inspector General (OIG). Health care providers participating in Medicare programs could be subject to disincentives under those programs. Health IT developers of certified health IT or who meet the definition of a health information network or health information exchange that obstruct data sharing could face penalties up to $1 million per violation. Developers of product(s) certified under the ONC Health IT Certification Program could have certifications terminated and be banned from the program.

This move supports innovation, transparency, and patient-centered care, aligning with broader efforts to modernize the healthcare system. Violations can be reported through an Information Blocking Portal.