

Responses to Additional Web Conference Questions

A National Web Conference on Personal Health Records: Personal Control of Health Data and Patient-Provider Communications

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

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Q: Hello...Can you please clarify the CLIA policy about sharing data with patients and a reference?

A: Under the Clinical Laboratory Improvements Amendments (CLIA) of 1988 and amendments, (1) laboratories must release test results only to authorized individuals, which, depending on individual state laws and regulations, may not always include the patient. Hence, in many circumstances, the current form of CLIA can be interpreted as preventing communication of laboratory results directly to patients. (2)

1. Clinical Laboratory Improvements Amendments (CLIA). 42 USC 263a. USA; 1988.
2. Dimitropoulos, LL. Assessment of Variation and Analysis of Solutions. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Publication No. 07-0080-1-EF. July 2007.
<http://healthit.ahrq.gov/images/jul07avasreport/avas.htm>

Q: In reference to an 'Agreement on Data Standards' would this preclude applications that convert raw patient data into more simplistic but possibly better understood metric such as a number score or letter grade (similar to RealAge.com format)?

A: We expect that many personal health applications will develop new data formats. Over time, the most important of these will be incorporated into the Indivo data model. In the mean time, those applications will need to store the data locally.