

MENTAL HEALTH GROUPS WANT FREEDOM TO SHARE SUBSTANCE

ABUSE RECORDS: The Senate HELP Committee should remove the statutory limitations on sharing drug and alcohol abuse treatment information as part of lawmakers' work on electronic medical records, the Behavioral Health IT Coalition and Netsmart, an EHR vendor specializing in behavioral health products, wrote to lawmakers Monday. Their letter calls out problems in a section of federal law, known as 42 CFR Part 2, that prohibits the sharing of substance-abuse records beyond providers expressly authorized to view them. Congress has had a difficult time removing 42 CFR Part 2. An effort to ease the flow of substance-abuse records never made it into the interoperability section of the 21st Century Cures Act before the House passed it last week. The coalition also renewed their long-standing call to allow mental health providers to receive meaningful use incentives. The letter: <http://politico.pro/1L3zTBH>