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Ethical Issues in the Research Use of Electronic Health Records

The widespread adoption and use of electronic health records (EHR) will make an unprecedented amount of information available for health-related research. Although clinical records have long been used for research, the scope of the information now available, and the scale on which it may be linked and used, raises urgent issues concerning privacy, confidentiality, informed consent, and the discovery of discrepancies in the data necessitating patient contact. Dr. Beskow will provide an overview of these issues, as well as describe her recently-funded NIH grant to study patients' perspectives on research use of their EHR.



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