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Contact:
Lauren Sogor
National Partnership for Women & Families
202.986.2600

‘Get My Health Data’ Campaign Launches

Campaign Aims to Remove Barriers, Enhance Demand, and Improve Patient Access to Electronic Health Data

WASHINGTON, D.C. ─ July 2, 2015 ─ Almost every industry ─ banking, travel, retail, education ─ gives customers powerful tools to manage their lives online. But in health care today, accessing information online is often a confusing and difficult process. Few patients know what to ask for or what information should be available to them, and not nearly enough health care organizations are equipped to meet their requests.

To change that, a diverse and powerful group of patient advocates today launched the *Get My Health Data Campaign* to support patients in asking for, getting and effectively using their digital health data.

The campaign has three goals: give consumers the information and tools they need to ask for and use their digital health data; identify and promote innovative apps and tools that help consumers securely compile, store and use their health data; and promote a culture in which consumer access to data is the rule, rather than the exception.

“With the *Get My Health Data Campaign*, we are creating a concerted push from consumers that will liberate digital health information so it gets into the hands of patients and family caregivers, allowing them to more fully engage in their health and care,” said Christine Bechtel, campaign coordinator and advisor to the National Partnership for Women & Families. “Even though we have the technology and policies in place to support patients in accessing their electronic health information, it’s not happening the way it should. Our goal is to enable patients to more easily get and use their digital health information.”

“Over the past five years, doctors and hospitals have widely adopted electronic health records. We’ve declared July 4th ‘Data Independence Day’ because we believe now is the moment when patient demand for their digital health information can flip health care into the open position. Let’s work together to make it practical for people to ask for, share and use their own health data,” added Farzad Mostashari, MD, ScM, former U.S. National Coordinator for Health Information Technology.

More information about the new campaign, including information on how to be successful in requesting data, what to request, patients’ rights to data, resources for providers, and more is available at www.GetMyHealthData.org.

“Too often there are gaps between policy intentions and implementation realities for patients and their families,” said Rebecca Coelius, MD, director of health at Code for America. “We’ve seen that this gap also causes challenges in accessing health data. Code for America has collaboratively built the Vocatus tool to be a simple and free way for patients or their proxies to request medical records, capture whether that request was successful and provide a feedback loop to health care institutions, the public and government agencies as part of the *Get My Health Data Campaign*.”

The *Get My Health Data Campaign* is coordinated by the National Partnership for Women & Families. Founders include Amida Technology Solutions; Code for America; Genetic Alliance; Health Data Consortium; Farzad Mostashari, MD, ScM; and Aneesh Chopra, former Chief Technology Officer of the United States.

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The Get My Health Data Campaign is a collaborative effort among leading consumer organizations, health care experts, former policy makers and technology organizations working to enhance consumer access to digital health information.