21st Century Cures Act

Information Blocking: Expansion of the Designated Record Set

Summary: Munson Healthcare and its subsidiaries and affiliate Kalkaska Memorial Health Center (collectively referred to as the Organizations) are committed to providing patients to access medical record and billing information as defined in the Designated Record Set (DRS).

The 21st Century Cures Act prohibits information blocking. This means that healthcare providers (including hospitals, ambulatory offices/clinics, long-term care, pharmacies, physical/occupational therapy, and home care) that store electronic health information (EHI) cannot interfere with patient access to their EHI. Unimpeded access can enhance continuity of care, promote patient safety, and empower patients to be involved in their healthcare.

When: October 6, 2022

What: Beginning on April 5, 2021, EHI subject to the information blocking rules was limited to a subset of the Designated Record Set (DRS) which did not include billing records. Effective October 6, 2022, EHI will expand to the entire Designated Record Set (DRS).

Support: Munson Medical Center Health Information Management (HIM) at 231-935-6350, option #1 or email mhc-cures-request@mhc.net.

What is a Designated Record Set?

A Designated Record Set (DRS) is a group of records that is maintained by or for the Organizations and is used to make decisions pertaining to healthcare provided to an individual. These include the patient's medical records and billing/patient account records.

Examples:
- Protected Health Information: Including Ambulatory Clinic/Office/Hospital/Emergency Department Documentation, Laboratory/Radiology Results, etc.
- Billing Information: Including Itemized statements, Claims, Denials, etc.

See PolicyStat policy ID 11960778: Designated Record Set for a more comprehensive listing of DRS content.

Request for Access to DRS

If any of the Organizations personnel or providers receive a request to access the DRS or an individual's EHI, established procedures should be followed (see policy information below). **These procedures apply to all departments and personnel that maintain and release patient information**.

> **If you are unsure of how to process a request for records, please contact Health Information Management (HIM) or email** mhc-cures-request@mhc.net.

See PolicyStat policy ID 8856289: Release of Medical Records and/or Patient Information for more information.