

FROM: Clinical Informatics

TO: Clinicians Caring for Sutter Patients

SUBJECT: Share Note Button for OpenNotes and Results Release

Dear Colleagues: As many of you have heard, the 21st Century Cures Act passed in 2016 includes a federal rule to make patients' health records available to them electronically and in a timely manner. On Oct. 29, Sutter Health will make clinical notes and results available to patients via My Health Online (MHO). Based on feedback we received, these are a few of the points we wish to clarify:

OpenNotes:

- Clinical notes will be released and visible to the patient in MHO:
 - in the acute setting, once they have been signed, and
 - in the ambulatory and ED setting, once the encounter has been closed
- The author of a note can prevent its release only if it meets one of the specified exception criteria outlined in the federal rule. The following two exceptions will likely be the most common used by clinicians:
 - **Preventing physical harm:** A note or result can be blocked if a provider believes that viewing the note could cause substantial risk of harm to the patient or another person.
 - **Privacy:** A note or result can be blocked if sharing the information would result in a violation of the patient's privacy.
 - Read more detail about all the exceptions [here](#)

To assist clinicians in preventing a note from being shared, a new button called “Share w/ Patient” is now available within the Sutter EHR.



The button is defaulted to the “Share” option. If a provider determines that a note should not be shared, they will un-select the “Share w/ Patient” button and document the reason using the SmartPhrase **(.MYNOTESHIDE)** within the body of the note text.

The **(.MYNOTESHIDE)** SmartPhrase contains a list of four acceptable reasons for a note to be blocked from sharing. A provider should select one of the reasons for blocking a note as follows:

Note is not being shared for the following reason:

- *To prevent harm: release of this note would result in a harm to the life or physical safety of the patient or another person.*
- *To respect privacy: The patient or proxy has requested that this information not be shared.*

- *The information in this note is compiled solely for use in a civil, criminal, or administrative action/proceeding. Please consult with your local risk officer before selecting this option.*

NOTE: You can use the button now if you want to block a note from being shared, but notes will not be available to patients until Oct. 29.

On Oct. 29 when Sutter goes live on OpenNotes and Results Release, patients can view all notes contained in the Sutter EHR that are not blocked.

For more information about the “Share w/ Patient” button, click [here](#).

Sutter is also hosting Clinician OpenNotes Q&A sessions. For dates and times, a Provider FAQ and other resources, click [OpenNotes & Results Release Resource Page](#).

If you have additional questions not covered in the FAQ, please reach out at clinicians@sutterhealth.org.