



October 12, 2020

Sent on behalf of William Isenberg, M.D., Ph.D., Chief Quality and Safety Officer, Sutter Health

To: Physicians, Advanced Practice Clinicians and Healthcare Staff Caring for Sutter Patients

Subject: Important Update on Release of Historical Notes

As most of you know, the 21st Century Cures Act led to the publication of a [final rule](#) that will make patients' health records available to them electronically in a timely manner. On Oct. 29, Sutter Health will make clinical notes and test results available to patients via My Health Online (MHO) unless a healthcare professional blocks the release of the note due to an allowable exception.

Late last week, our leaders decided that **we will not automatically share historical notes when we go live on Oct. 29, 2020**. While most notes entered in the EHR beginning Oct. 29 will be shared automatically via MHO, patient access to historical notes (those created prior to Oct. 29) will be provided through the existing Release of Information process managed by our Health Information Management department.

We want to take a more thoughtful approach in determining how to release historical notes in the best interest of our patients and their caregivers to support them in accessing their electronic health information. To this end, a multidisciplinary team that includes members of our Patient & Family Advisory Group, are working through the details. We are updating our [Clinician Resource Page](#) to reflect this change.

Attend a Virtual Q&A Session

I appreciate that all clinicians and healthcare staff are preparing for Open Notes and Results Release. I strongly encourage you to take advantage of the remaining virtual Q&A sessions we have scheduled to learn more about the upcoming federal regulations:

Virtual Q&A Sessions	
For all providers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday, Oct. 13, at Noon • Wednesday, Oct. 21, at Noon 	For behavioral health providers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday, Oct. 22, at Noon
For pediatricians: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday, Oct. 15 at Noon • Friday, Oct. 16, at 7:30-8:15 a.m. 	For nursing and ancillary staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 7 a.m. (nursing & ancillary) • Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 6 p.m. (nursing only) • Thursday, Oct. 15 at 7 a.m. (nursing & ancillary)

Subject matter experts will be on hand to answer your questions. For Zoom links and more detail, click on this link to the OpenNotes and Results Release Resource Page:

<https://www.sutterhealth.org/newsroom/opennotes-and-results-release-resources>

Please feel free to reach out to your local clinician leaders or email us at clinicians@sutterhealth.org if you still have questions after reading the educational materials provided on the resource site.