



MEDIA ALERT

For more information, please contact:
Jennifer Marshall
847-476-2734
j.marshall@cs-effect.com

Patient ID Now Coalition Hosts Patient ID Week

Coalition calls for repeal of 'archaic' patient ID ban putting patient safety, privacy at risk

CHICAGO – May 5, 2022 – [Patient ID Now](#), a coalition of leading healthcare organizations, is hosting Patient ID Week, May 9 – 13, 2022. The week will focus on efforts to educate members of Congress and the public about the issues the healthcare and public health systems face due to the lack of a national strategy around patient identification and matching.

The coalition is bringing attention to the critical challenges of patient misidentification that afflict the country's health system. Failure to accurately match patients to their data raises patient safety, quality of care, and privacy concerns. An archaic section of the federal budget has prevented the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) from working with the private sector to develop a nationwide patient identification strategy. Throughout the week member organizations of the coalition are highlighting this issue to Capitol Hill and on social media. The coalition will be holding a virtual congressional briefing, sharing stories about patient misidentification, and highlighting a letter sent to federal appropriators this week signed by nearly [120 healthcare organizations](#), asking for the repeal of the ban.

The push to repeal this ban within the federal budget has gained steam in the past three years. Leadership from Rep. Bill Foster (IL-11) and Rep. Mike Kelly (PA-3) resulted in the ban being lifted three times in the US House of Representatives' Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bills. Though the US Senate's draft bill in Fiscal Year 2022 also lifted the ban, final negotiations over the omnibus saw the ban reinserted, leaving the health system for another year without a comprehensive, nationwide strategy to protect patients and ensure accurate health information.

Follow the coalition's efforts on its Twitter ([@PatientIDN](#)) or through the hashtag #patientIDnow during Patient ID Week, and attend the coalition's Virtual Hill Briefing: [Congress' Role in Protecting Patients by Improving Patient ID](#).

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About Patient ID Now

[Patient ID Now](#) is a coalition of healthcare organizations representing a wide range of healthcare stakeholders committed to advancing through legislation and regulations a nationwide strategy to address patient identification. Founding members include the [American College of Surgeons](#), the [American Health Information Management Association](#) (AHIMA), the [College of Healthcare Information Management Executives](#) (CHIME), [Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society](#) (HIMSS), [Intermountain Healthcare](#) and [Premier Healthcare Alliance](#).