Filename:

2\_mixups\_2016-02-03\_MTS

Title:

Patient misidentification remains a major problem in the era of electronic health records

Promo Title [alternate, often shorter]:

Patient misidentification still a common occurrence

Promo Description [tag line includes some new fact]:

According to a RAND Corporation study, patients are misidentified 8 percent of the time.

Story:

Misidentification is an all-to-common problem for health care providers in the United States, and straightforward solutions to the problem have not been forthcoming.

As described by STAT, patient identity mix ups are practically a routine occurrence: A study by the RAND Corporation found that health care providers mismatch patients to the correct medical records as much as 8 percent of the time.

Although electronic health records promise to unify patient records, thereby alleviating certain misidentification problems, paradoxically, uniting various patient databases can exacerbate some issues, making it more likely that providers will encounter duplicate records or patient records with the same name attached.

A unique patient identifier, modeled on the systems used in other countries such as Great Britain and Australia, may be a partial solution to the problem; however, Americans have historically been skeptical of such ID programs, citing privacy concerns.

Sources:

Patient mix ups: no easy fix

http://www.statnews.com/2016/01/28/patient-mixups-universal-identification/