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## **HIPAA — Controlling Doctors, Not Improving Care**

HIPAA allowed medical records to be computerized without consent, allowing thousands in and outside of health care facilities to intrude, but many doctors refused to go digital. Paper records were easier, faster and cheaper. But the Obama administration saw computerized records as the foundation for national health care. The 2009 stimulus bill forced doctors to use computerized records or face cuts in Medicare payments.

*The Washington Post* said the stimulus bill was, “The Machinery Behind Health-Care Reform.” It said the mandate to require electronic health records allows “unprecedented data-mining...into the practice of doctors, the kind of surveillance” that will “enable insurers to cut costs by controlling more precisely the care that patients receive.” So, you see, the computerized record is all about control, not about care.

**“The Machinery Behind Health-Care Reform,”** Robert O’Harrow Jr, The Washington Post, May 16, 2009: <https://wapo.st/39YNUll>

**“Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH),”** The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 ( “stimulus” ), signed into law February 17, 2009: <https://bit.ly/2Ox4GAH>

**“Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996,”** Public Law 104-191, August 21, 1996: <https://bit.ly/3uvutIM>

**“The HIPAA Privacy Rule,”** <https://bit.ly/3wOSe0L>

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