IMPORTANCE OF PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION

Naia López Hernansanz

Affiliation: University of Basque Country (UPV/EHU)

Abstract

Biomedical research often involves studying patient data that contain personal information. Inappropriate use of these data might lead to leakage of sensitive information, which can put patient privacy at risk. The problem of preserving patient privacy has received increasing attentions in the era of big data. Therefore, for a biomedical research with this type of technology to be carried out correctly, it is essential to take care of the personal rights of the population and it is a necessary point that should not be overlooked.

Short communication

Biomedical research has advanced considerably in recent years and with it the techniques where personal information is collected from the people who participate in the research.

It must be taken into account that those research in health that do not involve the use of human biological samples, but that include the participation of human beings and / or their confidential data, must obtain prior to its execution, the approval of a Research Ethics Committee in Human Beings.

Inappropriate use of these data might lead to leakage of sensitive information, which can put patient privacy at risk. The problem of preserving patient privacy has received increasing attentions in the era of big data, because technologies have improved enough to put it in risk. To avoid endangering the confidentiality of the population data protection laws typically contain seven or eight of the following 10 principles (HEALTHCARE

POLICY Vol.2 No.3, 2007):

- 1. An organization should be accountable for the personal information it holds.
- 2. It should identify the purpose for which information will be used.
- 3. It should collect information only with the data subject's knowledge and consent, Data Protection and the Promotion of Health Research except under specified circumstances.
- 4. It should collect only information that is necessary to accomplish the identified purpose.
- 5. Information should not be used or disclosed for other purposes without consent.
- 6. Information should be retained only as long as necessary to accomplish the identified purpose.
- 7. The organization should ensure that information is accurate, complete and up to date.
- 8. Information should be kept secure.
- 9. The organization should be open about its policies and practices.
- 10. Data subjects should have the right to access and correct their information.

To conclude, complying with the points described above, it is possible to take care of the personal rights of the population since it is a necessary point that should not be overlooked.