

FAQ – Federal CURES Act & the St. Peter's Health Patient Portal

What is the federal CURES act and how does it impact me? The 2016 federal CURES Act impacts all health care organizations who offer online Patient Portals. The goal of the act is to give you and your healthcare provider(s) access to your health information at no cost as well as empower you to engage in your care. The Act prohibits information blocking and specifically outlines what medical information, like clinical notes, must be made immediately available to you if you have a Patient Portal.

Why didn't I have access to these documents and notes before? All the documents and note types that will now be available to you through the Patient Portal have always been available to you through medical record requests. This just makes the information more accessible.

Important note: Provider notes and documents placed in your Patient Portal are intended to document important medical information. Please understand that providers often use talk-to-text devices to assist with note creation on patient files so there is the possibility of an interpretation mistake using this device. If mistakes are found in your clinical notes, please take them in this context. To request an amendment to a note or document, contact St. Peter's Medical Records at 406-444-2178.

What type of documents or note types will be available in my Patient Portal?

There are eight note types that will now be available including consultation notes; progress notes; discharge summary; history & physical; procedure notes; imaging narratives; and pathology reports.

What about lab results and imaging reports? Will I continue to have access to those?

Yes. Currently, there is a 36-hour delay for when lab results are available and 72-hour delay for when imaging reports are available on the Patient Portal.

Starting October 13, the 36-hour delay for lab results will be removed. This means you will be able to view results immediately upon completion and processing.

Starting October 18, the 72-hour delay for diagnostic imaging reports will be removed. This means you will be able to view these reports immediately upon completion.

Important note: Removing these delays means that you may have access to results and reports before your provider or other clinical staff are able to review and call to discuss with you. Providers will review the results/reports and get back to you as soon as they can.

Who do I contact with any questions or concerns about my notes on the Patient Portal?

Please call the ordering provider if there are concerns regarding your results or reports.

Please contact Medical Records if corrections are needed at 406-444-2178.