Frequently Asked Questions

Biometric Data

Q: What is Biometric Data?
A: Biometric Data includes Biometric Identifiers and Biometric Information. Biometric Identifier means a retina or iris scan, fingerprint, voiceprint, or scan of face or hand geometry. Biometric Information means any information based upon an individual's Biometric Identifier to identify an individual.

Q: What isn't considered Biometric Data?
Biometric Identifiers do not include writing samples, written signatures, photographs, human biological samples used for valid scientific testing or screening, demographic data, tattoo descriptions, or physical descriptions such as height, weight, hair color, or eye color. Biometric Identifier also does not include information captured from a patient in a health care setting or information collected, used, or stored for health care treatment, payment, or operations under the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). Biometric Information does not include information derived from items or procedures that are excluded under the definition of Biometric Identifier.

Q: What is the policy of OSF regarding use of Biometric Data?
A: The Biometric Information Policy for OSF can be found in PolicyStat and on the public-facing OSF web site at www.osfhealthcare.org/compliance.

Q: What is the purpose of collecting my Biometric Data?
A: OSF uses Biometric Data for our hospitals' Pyxis. Pyxis uses a fingerprint for both security (to identify and authenticate you to Pyxis) and convenience (to allow you to use a unique identifier, your fingerprint, in place of a username and password).

Q: How will my Biometric Data be used?
A: The fingerprint you register with Pyxis will only be used for the purposes of identifying and authenticating you to Pyxis.

Q: What happens if I don't consent to OSF using my Biometric Data?
A: If a user does not consent to the use of their Biometric Data, Pyxis will be set for the user to use their Epic log in and password. Becton Dickinson, the Pyxis vendor, will purge the Biometric Data within 30 days of a user's termination or declination of consent. The opportunity to complete the consent will remain open until September 11, 2023. After that date, all users who have not completed their consent will be switched in Pyxis to password access and their Biometric Data will be purged. A user must consent to restore the ability to use their fingerprint again in Pyxis by scanning the QR Code on a Pyxis machine or by accessing the ServiceNow portal where you completed your consent. All new hires and new users will be defaulted to password until consent is completed.

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Q: How do Pyxis and OSF store my Biometric Data?

A: When a fingerprint is registered with Pyxis, it converts the fingerprint data into a string of letters and numbers known as a hash string. Each fingerprint and its associated hash string is unique. Once the hash string is created, the fingerprint is destroyed. The hash string is then associated with the user's Pyxis account and stored on a Pyxis server located in the OSF datacenter. At no time does the hash string leave the server. Due to the security of the software, a fingerprint cannot be recreated from a hash string.

Q: Who will have access to my Biometric Data?

A: When a fingerprint is registered with Pyxis, it converts the fingerprint data into a string of letters and numbers known as a hash string. Once the hash string is created, the fingerprint is destroyed. The hash string stays on the Pyxis server located in the OSF datacenter and does not leave the server. Only Pyxis has access to the hash string. Due to the security of the software, a fingerprint cannot be recreated from a hash string. OSF never has access to the fingerprint or hash string.

Q: How long will my Biometric Data be retained?

A: Since your Biometric Data is being collected for the purpose of identification and authentication, it will be retained for as long as you use Pyxis, or you rescind your consent. Becton Dickinson, the Pyxis vendor, will purge the Biometric Data within 30 days of a user's declination of consent.

Q: How can I request that my Biometric Data be deleted?

A: If you are a current Pyxis user, you can rescind your consent by scanning the QR Code on a Pyxis machine or by accessing the ServiceNow portal where you completed your consent. Please note that after doing so, you will not be able to access Pyxis using a fingerprint and must use your Epic log in and password. Becton Dickinson, the Pyxis vendor, will purge the Biometric Data within 30 days of a user's declination of consent.

Q: What happens to my Biometric Data if I leave OSF?

A: Your Biometric Data will be deleted from the system after your network log in is disabled.

Q: What happens to my Biometric Data if I move to a position that doesn't require me to use Pyxis?

A: Your Biometric Data will be deleted from the system after you move to a position that no longer requires Pyxis access.