

# My Health Record in ED Quick Guide



My Health Record

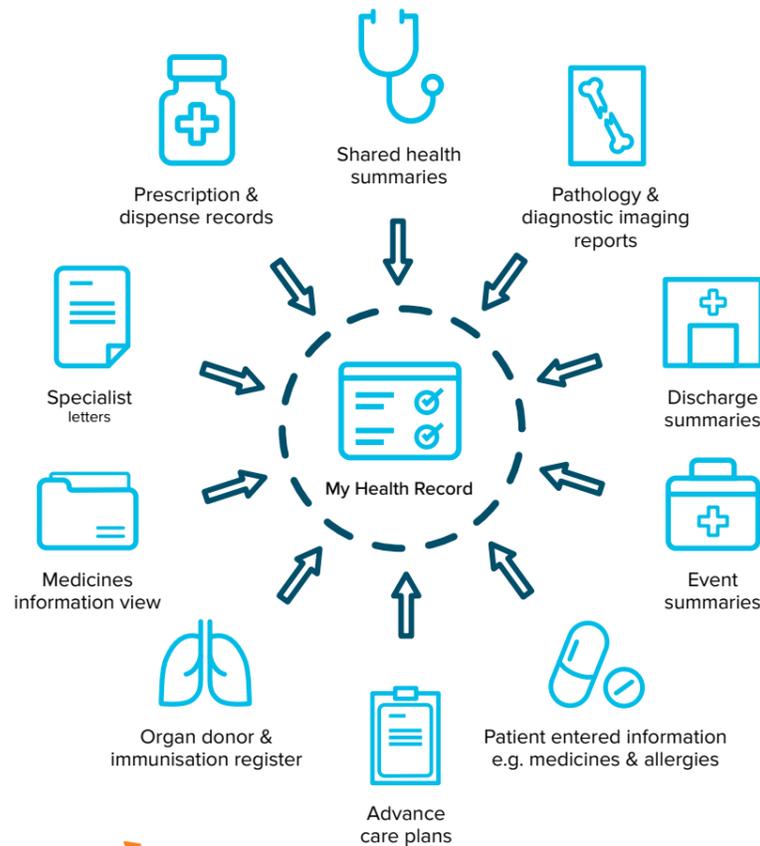
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## What is My Health Record?

- My Health Record is an electronic collection of a person's health information. A record is available to all Australians registered for Medicare or holding a Department of Veteran's Affairs (DVA) card.
- Every day, more and more registered healthcare providers across both public and private sectors are being connected to the system, contributing to the integrated care of Australians.

## Why is the My Health Record important for me?

- **As a Clinician** – 24/7 access to your patients' health history, which may include information outside of your hospital, to support clinical decision making.
- **As an Individual** – you can access your own health history, such as immunisations and medications. You could notify your treating doctor or health provider about your My Health Record, which could give them insight into your history and avoid you potentially having to repeat this information to them.
- **As a Parent or Carer** – better visibility of your loved one's health means you may not need to be the sole source of your dependents' history. This is particularly helpful if your loved one's needs are complex.



## What additional information will it give me?

The key to a well-connected My Health Record system is access to information that is currently difficult for you to access from your workplace. Examples include health information from:

- Community-based Pharmacies
- General Practice
- Private Pathology & Diagnostics Imaging providers
- Public and private hospitals outside your local network
- Public Hospitals outside of your state or territory
- Private Specialist rooms
- Organ Donor & Immunisation Registers
- Patients (e.g. next-of-kin details, advance care planning documentation)

## Important things to note

### My Health Record is an evolving system.

- Whilst most Australians have a My Health Record, the amount of content within each record is varied, but this is increasing on a daily basis as more healthcare organisations are connected to the system.
- Clinicians should be aware that a consumer's My Health Record may not be a complete collection of their health information.

### There are many ways to access My Health Record.

Where you work will determine how you access My Health Record. There are many different routes to the My Health Record system, typically via your Clinical Information System. Please familiarise yourself with your local policies and procedures.

### Documents uploaded to My Health Record have a potentially greater audience than paper-based information.

Bear in mind that My Health Record is a document repository and so your hospital discharge summary may be visible to anyone with access to a consumer's My Health Record.

This differs from previous practice of handing a single copy to a patient or faxing directly to GP's rooms. Consideration should be given to vulnerable groups such as people at risk of domestic violence.

### Teenagers might have information in their My Health Record that their parents cannot see.

When a child turns 14 years-old, their parents are automatically removed as authorised representatives for the My Health Record. Unless the child grants their parents view access their parents might not know about the contents of their child's My Health Record.

## Consent, Consumer Access Controls & Emergency Access

### Consent

Under the *My Health Records Act 2012*, clinicians working within registered healthcare provider organisations are authorised to view and upload information to the My Health Record system, providing it is for the purposes of delivering care.

Remember that a patient can withdraw consent to upload information to their My Health Record at any time. You should also be familiar with local policies in your hospital that outline how to prevent a document from being uploaded or remove a document that your hospital has uploaded.

### Consumer Access Controls

Consumers can limit access to specific documents within their My Health Record or access to their record as a whole using a Limited Document Access Code (LDAC) or a Record Access Code (RAC). You may need to ask your patient or their authorised representative for these codes if they have been applied.

### Emergency Access ('Break Glass' feature)

There are certain urgent situations, defined in the *My Health Records Act 2012* (section 64), where it may be permissible for you to bypass an access code(s) by asserting the emergency access ('break glass') function via your Clinical Information System.

You must only use the emergency access function to **EITHER**:

- *Lessen or prevent*: a serious threat to an individual's life, health or safety and it is unreasonable or impracticable to obtain the healthcare recipient's consent;

OR

- *Lessen or prevent*: a serious threat to public health and safety.

It is important to note that unlawful use of the emergency access function is subject to civil and/or criminal penalties under the My Health Records Act.

