



Why participate in the eHealth system?

- ✓ Better access to accurate information about your patients, their medical history and treatment – no more solely relying on patients' memories
- ✓ Quick and efficient sharing of patient information between peers – for example, between a GP and a specialist
- ✓ More time treating patients, less time spent tracking down records and test results
- ✓ Faster access to relevant information, helping you make better clinical decisions and save time
- ✓ Access to potentially life-saving patient information in an emergency situation
- ✓ To help patients, including those with chronic and complex conditions, better manage their health
- ✓ The more healthcare organisations that participate, the better connected the network will become, and the better it will serve you and your patients

July 2012 is just the starting point for eHealth records. The system will grow as more individuals and healthcare organisations join.

Get the most out of Australia's health system and make it work better for you.
Sign up for eHealth today.

For more information or to sign up to receive regular updates visit
www.yourhealth.gov.au

or call the Helpline
1300 901 001

Personally Controlled Electronic Health Records

BETTER FOR YOU, BETTER FOR YOUR PATIENTS




Personally Controlled Electronic Health Records

Connecting Australian healthcare

A national system of eHealth records has the potential to save money, make the health system more efficient and improve care for patients.

eHealth records will give healthcare professionals better access to patient information – patient medications, test results, allergies or past treatments – meaning



From 1 July 2012, every Australian can choose to register for a personally controlled electronic health record (eHealth record).

better, safer and more efficient care for patients.

Healthcare professionals can register with the Healthcare Identifiers Service right now to be a part of the eHealth system. Visit www.medicareaustralia.gov.au and follow the links.

How will an eHealth record work?

The national eHealth system will provide access to select health information from your patients' health records that can be quickly and securely shared with relevant healthcare organisations across Australia.

An eHealth record will contain a summary of your patient's key healthcare events and activities, including medical history, allergies, current medications and immunisation history. More detailed patient information will continue to be available in health information systems held within your business or organisation, as per current practice.

Does it replace existing records?

eHealth records will not replace existing medical records or act in place of taking a note of a patient's history and reviewing existing clinical notes. It is an active online record that follows patients as they move through Australia's health system, capturing important clinical and treatment information at different points in time.

Creating a patient's shared health summary will be underpinned by RACGP (Royal Australian College of General Practitioners) standards. It is expected that in the future, the availability of eHealth records will save healthcare professionals valuable time.



Can a patient enter their own health information into their eHealth record?

Only identified healthcare professionals can enter information in the clinical record, ensuring it is clinically relevant and accurate. Patients will be able to enter demographic and basic healthcare information and keep private notes for their own use.

What can I do to become eHealth system ready?

You and your healthcare organisation can start preparing now for the new eHealth record system. You will need:

- ✔ A Healthcare Provider Identifier - Individual (HPI-I) and your organisation will need a Healthcare Provider Identifier - Organisation (HPI-O)
- ✔ Both of these identifiers can be accessed from the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency or from the Department of Human Services - Medicare
- ✔ Clinical software that is 'PCEHR ready'
- ✔ To register with the PCEHR system operator (the Department of Health and Ageing) and accept the prescribed terms and conditions for participation from 1 July 2012

Training materials and implementation guides will be made available for healthcare professionals, their organisations and other associations.