

MY HEALTH RECORD – IMPORTANT INFORMATION

YOU NEED TO DECIDE BY 31 JANUARY 2019 – ARE YOU IN OR OUT?

The following information is designed to help you decide if you want a My Health Record or not.

WHAT IS IT?

My Health Record (MHR) is an online system holding key health information for each Australian who has a Medicare number. It is operated by the Australian Government.

The opt-out deadline has now been extended again and a MHR will now automatically be created for you early next year unless you opt out by Thursday 31 January 2019.

WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE IN MHR?

Health information such as your Medicare records, prescription history, test results, a summary of your health conditions and treatment, hospital discharge summaries, referral letters between health care practitioners, immunisations and allergies may all be uploaded to your MHR. This information may indicate if you have been tested for, diagnosed with or treated for hepatitis B, hepatitis C, HIV or a sexually transmissible infection. Some of this information will be automatically added to MHR when it is created. Other information is uploaded later by healthcare providers or you can add information yourself.

WHO CAN ACCESS MY HEALTH RECORD?

When your MHR is created, all information in it will be 'open access' allowing it to be viewed by healthcare staff including: GPs, specialists, clinic and hospital staff, pharmacists and pathology labs. You can choose to set limits on who has access to your information.

POSSIBLE HEALTHCARE BENEFITS

- ✓ Ensuring all of your healthcare providers have access to the same information about you can be helpful. This is particularly valuable for co-ordinating care for people with chronic health problems.
- ✓ The MHR may help prevent drug-drug interactions, and save time in an emergency or other situations.
- ✓ If you change your doctor, you can allow them access to your MHR so you don't have to repeat your entire health history.
- ✓ You can provide access to others e.g. your partner, a family member, or Power of Attorney.

POSSIBLE PRIVACY AND SECURITY RISKS

- 👉 Your MHR by default will be set up with open access so that healthcare providers can read the information in it.
- 👉 For people who may be sensitive about the disclosure of their hepatitis B, hepatitis C or HIV status, sexually transmitted infections, gender identity, sexual orientation, sex work and/or use of illicit substances there is a risk of unwanted disclosure of their private health information.
- 👉 To keep your sensitive information just between you and the individual healthcare professionals you trust you can block access to all other healthcare providers. To protect your privacy this should be done as soon as the MHR is created.
- 👉 Some people find it hard to set up and manage their MHR on their own and need someone they trust to help them.
- 👉 Experts have recommended many changes to protect the security and privacy of your MHR data. Some changes - but not all - have been agreed to by the government but changes have not been completed yet.

DO YOU WANT A MY HEALTH RECORD?

YES – YOU WANT IN	NO – YOU WANT OUT	STILL NOT SURE?
<p>A MHR will still be set up for you automatically by the Government if you do nothing.</p> <p>Alternatively, you can register now.</p> <p>Some health information will automatically be uploaded to your MHR and be available to health professionals to read.</p> <p>If you want to limit who sees your health information you must create a login through myGov and go into MHR to change the access codes. Instructions are available on the MHR website.</p> <p>Go to: myhealthrecord.gov.au/for-you-your-family</p>	<p>Before 31 January 2019 you can opt-out by visiting the opt-out section of the MHR website. You will need your Medicare number and ID such as a driver's license. Go to: myhealthrecord.gov.au/for-you-your-family/opt-out-my-health-record</p> <p>After 31 January 2019 your MHR will be created. If you don't want one you can ask for your MHR to be destroyed. (Under current legislation it will be retained, but not accessible. Under proposed legislation it will be destroyed).</p> <p>Go to: myhealthrecord.gov.au/for-you-your-family/howtos/cancel-my-record</p>	<p>It is important to understand how MHR works before deciding if you want one. If in doubt, opt out - remembering that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ You can opt out up to the 31 January 2019 deadline and join later if you want to - after you have weighed up your personal benefits and risks. ○ If you don't opt out by 31 January 2019 a MHR will automatically be created for you. ○ If a MHR is created and you decide you don't want one (once laws are changed) you can ask for it to be destroyed. <p>Go to: https://www.myhealthrecord.gov.au/for-you-your-family</p>