

My Health Record changing the future of healthcare

Thursday 19 July 2018

The start of the three-month opt-out period this week means Australians can now decide if they want a My Health Record – an online summary of their key health information where they can safely store, access and share their important health information.

More than 5.9 million Australians already have a My Health Record and 12,860 healthcare professional organisations are connected, including general practices, hospitals, pharmacies, diagnostic imaging and pathology practices. The My Health Record is already making healthcare management for individuals and healthcare providers easier and safer, and could save lives in an emergency situation.

Australians can manage privacy and control access to their My Health Record including what information gets uploaded and who has access such as family members, carers and healthcare providers. This empowers them to share and control their health information with doctors, hospitals and other healthcare providers from anywhere, at any time.

By the end of 2018, a My Health Record will be created for every Australian, unless they choose not to have one. If people choose not to have a My Health Record, they will be able to opt out of having one created for them during a three-month period, starting on Monday 16 July and ending on 15 October 2018.

WA Primary Health Alliance CEO Learne Durrington said it is important people understand the benefits of My Health Record, how it works, and how to opt-out, if they choose to do so.

“The My Health Record expansion is a huge step towards empowering the Australian people, by increasing their knowledge of the health system and taking control of their personal healthcare information. It may also save their lives, so they owe it to themselves to make a fully informed decision,” Ms Durrington said.

“Over the next few months, our My Health Record WA team will be raising awareness through a comprehensive state-wide advertising campaign and more than 110 community information events run by our community engagement team who are already active around the state, talking to metropolitan, regional and remote communities.

“We know patients value and trust the information they receive from their healthcare provider. You can expect to see My Health Record brochures, posters and videos when you visit your local general practice, pharmacy, hospital or Aboriginal Medical Service, and take the time to talk to your GP or healthcare provider to find out more,” Ms Durrington said.

To find an information session in your area, follow the My Health Record Facebook page www.facebook.com/MyHealthRec/ or visit www.wapha.org.au/events/ More information on My

Health Record can be found at <https://www.myhealthrecord.gov.au/>. People who do not want a My Health Record can opt out by visiting the My Health Record website or by calling 1800 723 471 for phone-based assistance. Additional support is available to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, people from non-English speaking backgrounds, people with limited digital literacy, and those living in rural and remote regions.

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About WAPHA: WAPHA oversees the strategic commissioning functions of the Perth North, Perth South and Country WA Primary Health Networks (PHNs). The WA PHNs are three of 31 PHNs established by the Australian Government nationally to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of medical services for the community. We work across the WA healthcare system with doctors, allied health professionals, Area Health Services and service providers to improve the coordination of care for people who are at risk of poor health outcomes. For more information, visit www.wapha.org.au