

Patients can now opt in or opt out of My Health Record at any time

On 26 November 2018, the Australian Parliament passed new laws to strengthen the privacy and security protections within My Health Record.

After 31 January 2019, a My Health Record will be created for every eligible Australian who has chosen not to opt-out by the deadline.

Patients can visit [MyHealthRecord.gov.au](https://myhealthrecord.gov.au) to find out more before they decide. For patients who need extra support, they can call our Help line on 1800 723 471.

Strengthened privacy protections

Your patients can now delete their My Health Record permanently if they decide they don't want one at any time. If they change their mind, they can always choose to register for a new My Health Record in the future.

The new laws prohibit the release of health information in your patient's My Health Record to law enforcement agencies and government agencies without their express consent or an order from a judicial officer. These laws also prohibit by law access to My Health Records by anyone for insurance or employment purposes.

When a minor turns 14, their authorised representatives will be automatically removed from their record. Technical changes to the My Health Record system will be made to reflect this change in law, and implemented in the system as soon as practicable. We advise, as is best practice, for you to continue to discuss with your patient what information should be uploaded to their My Health Record.

There are also greater protections for people at risk of family violence.

These changes are in response to the Australian community's calls for even stronger privacy and security protections for people using My Health Record.

The changes are summarised in the enclosed factsheet. We have also provided two consumer factsheets about My Health Record privacy and security to support you in your conversations with your patients, including one that explains how they can set access codes within their My Health Record.

Order My Health Record communication materials

Factsheets and other materials may be ordered in bulk at no cost to you via our online print ordering portal at myhealthrecord.immij.com. Delivery is usually within 3-5 business days.

To log in to the print ordering portal, please use the following details:

Username – MHRE_GP | Password – myhealthrecord2018

Out of date brochures, factsheets and posters

Our consumer brochures, factsheets and posters have now been updated with the extended opt-out date of 31 January 2019. You can choose to order updated materials via the online print ordering portal, or you can simply let patients know that the opt-out period has been extended.

We will be sending you new materials in 2019.

Thank you for your support in improving clinical outcomes for Australians.

With best wishes,



Professor Meredith Makeham

Chief Medical Adviser, Australian Digital Health Agency