



Private Healthcare Australia
Better Cover. Better Access. Better Care.



National Allied Health Digital Uplift Plan

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About Private Healthcare Australia (PHA)

Private Healthcare Australia (PHA) is the Australian private health insurance industry's peak representative body. We have 22 registered health funds throughout Australia as members and collectively represent over 98% of people covered by private health insurance. PHA member funds provide healthcare benefits for over 14.8 million Australians.

Introduction

Health funds assist their members to manage their own health care. This is predominantly done by providing rebates for health care. But increasingly, consumers are demanding their health fund assists them to manage their own health. This is good for the consumer, good for the health fund, and provides additional benefits and cost savings for the Australian community.

Consumer self-care is compromised when consumers lack information about their health. With My Health Record being available to consumers, there is no excuse for consumers not to receive the information they need to manage their health.

PHA supports the proposals to increase consumer access to digital health records relating to allied health consultations.

Response

PHA supports proposals to ensure all health records are shared to My Health Record, unless the patient makes a specific request that this not occur.

PHA is concerned that only a small fraction of allied health records are currently being shared to My Health Record. Allied health is a vital part of our health system, so we need to ensure records are available to consumers. The current lack of access to health records by allied health practitioners is potentially compromising patient care, as the lack of access for allied health practitioners makes it more difficult for these practitioners and other health care providers to provide best quality care to their patients.

Better information for consumers and their clinicians will drive better health decisions and improved outcomes.

There is no reason consumers should not have access to their own health information. Allied health providers must be able to upload and access health records where patients request and/or allow it.

This simple implementation of the National Allied Health Digital Uplift Plan would be a significant win for consumers and for the Australian community.