



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



Online Prescribing Services: Sharing medicines-related information to My Health Record by Default

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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 99% of people covered by private health insurance. PHA member funds provide healthcare benefits for more than 15 million Australians.

Introduction

Health funds assist their members to manage their own health care. Predominantly this is done by providing benefits for health care, but increasingly consumers are demanding their health funds assist them to manage their own health. This is good for the consumer, a good business decision for the health fund, and provides benefits across 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 receiving the information they need to manage their health.

PHA supports the proposals to increase consumer access to medicines-related information.

Response

PHA supports all actions to ensure patients' details are shared to My Health Record, unless the patient makes a specific request that this not occur.

Failure to share records contributes to medication errors, duplicate tests, unnecessary treatments, and poorer health outcomes.

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

The arguments are simple and compelling. There is no reason consumers should not have access to their own health information.

This proposal is a significant win for consumers and for the Australian community. PHA recommends continued work to expand the scope of share by default requirements.