

# My Health Record

## Disadvantages

1. **Accuracy** - Information in the record will only be useful if it is kept up to date and accurate. This will take considerable work from patients themselves. Inaccurate information is potentially dangerous information. It will be impossible for your GP to maintain your record data on your behalf.
2. **Confidentiality** - the potential for inappropriate access to your health records by healthcare workers already exists, but there has never been a system where all your information would be in one place and so many people can potentially access it eg - doctors, pharmacists, physiotherapists, nurses etc.
3. **Consent** - My Health Record goes against global best practice for informed consent. Consent for use of personal information should be fully informed, easy to understand and should require action on the part of the individual. Any consent you give now may also be used as consent to upload sensitive information in the future.
4. **Secondary Users** - Can potentially be used by police, courts, ASIO, centrelink without a warrant and potentially without you being notified. You can override this in your security settings, but these settings can also be overruled in certain circumstances
5. **Lack of future control** of use of data by 3rd parties including insurance companies. We do not yet know what will be allowed in the future. Laws can change.
6. **Information removal** - Patient removed health information eg prior drug dependence, could adversely affect patient care.
7. Ability to re-identify patients from de-identified research data.
8. **Security Risk** - Health data is prized by hackers. We have witnessed health data breaches in Australia and overseas
9. Patients who aren't IT proficient are at a disadvantage when it comes to controlling the information in their health record.



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## Advantages

1. **Better Healthcare Connections** - Gives health care professionals access to your medications, allergies, immunisations, hospital summaries, investigation reports and advanced care plans.
2. **Beneficial to following patients** - complex health needs or see a number of doctors/specialists/hospitals. Will also be useful to patients who travel interstate.
3. **Emergencies** - The information in your health record could help emergency workers by providing information about allergies, medications and medical history
4. **Patient Autonomy** - My Health Record will hopefully encourage patients to become more informed & engaged in their own health care. Patients will have a record of their medications, medical conditions and have a copy of hospital and specialist reports
5. **Control** - Your health record is controlled by you and not your doctor. You can therefore remove information you would prefer to be kept from others.
6. **Research** - Use of de-identified health information may help improve health systems and be used in research
7. Our medical records already exist and are at risk of hacking and inappropriate access by others. My Health Record is an extension of this record and doesn't contain any new information.
8. Improved access to information regarding the organ donor registry