



Media release

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My Health Record kits being distributed to Australian healthcare providers to assist with conversations about the expansion of My Health Record

New toolkits to better inform and educate all Australians about My Health Record are being distributed across Australia. The kits will equip health practitioners and other Agency partners with information and resources to help them advise all Australians about My Health Record.

Nearly 20,000 My Health Record education kits are being distributed to health practitioners and Australia Post offices across the country.

“The distribution of My Health Record toolkits is a significant moment in the Australian Digital Health Agency’s efforts to inform and educate all Australians about the benefits of My Health Record,” said Agency CEO Tim Kelsey.

“We are at a crucial point in the progression of digital healthcare in Australia, and so it is essential we are committed to empowering those responsible for enabling it through the front-line services they deliver,” Mr Kelsey said.

The toolkits contain a broad mixture of consumer facing materials to inform consumers of the benefits of My Health Record, privacy and security controls, examples of data included and how people can opt out or find more information if they would like. Contents include information brochures, factsheets, posters, notepads, tent cards and repeat script folders.

The My Health Record toolkits will be delivered to general practitioners, community pharmacies, aboriginal health services, post offices and public and private hospitals across Australia by Friday 13th July 2018.

Peak GP, pharmacy and healthcare bodies have welcomed the rollout of the toolkits and the efforts of the Agency to inform and educate people about My Health Record.

“The toolkits delivered will empower our 30,000 pharmacists to have well informed conversations with their patients to help deliver safer and more effective care,” said the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia’s National President Dr Shane Jackson.

“Community pharmacy is the most accessible community healthcare destination, and has always been at the forefront of digital innovation. My Health Record will foster better collaboration across the healthcare sector, and so it is crucial those responsible for delivering and advising on these services are empowered to do so by resources like the toolkits shared by the Agency,” said George Tambassis, National President of the Pharmacy Guild.

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) is currently delivering a nationwide My Health Record awareness program to its 38,000 members and their teams.

Just as GPs need to be well informed, Australians need to be aware of their choices and controls when participating in MHR.” said Dr Nathan Pinski, Chair of the RACGP Expert Committee – eHealth and Practice Services.



"The RACGP supports the vision for a national electronic health record. Every week more than 2 million Australians visit a GP and this inevitably results in the creation of consumer healthcare data some of which may flow to My Health Record," said Dr Pinski.

The My Health Record toolkits are part of the Agency's \$114m investment specifically for consumer communication, provider awareness and stakeholder engagement.

"My Health Record provides a single online repository for vital health information like immunisation status, medications, allergies and end of life preferences. With patient permissions, it will improve a care team's access to information about a patient's treatment to help coordinate care and minimise unnecessary tests, and costs to patients," said Ms Leanne Wells, CEO of the Consumers Health Forum.

"For benefits to be realised, consumers will need to fully understand how to use My Health Record and be involved in improving innovations such as the record and other national digital health developments," Ms Wells said.

The Australian Government is expanding My Health Record for all Australians in 2018. By the end of 2018, a My Health Record will be created for every Australian unless they choose not to have one.

The rollout of the kits will help Australians make informed decisions during the opt-out period for My Health Record, which begins on Monday 16 July and runs until 15 October 2018.

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About the Australian Digital Health Agency

The Agency is tasked with improving health outcomes for all Australians through the delivery of digital healthcare systems, and implementing [Australia's National Digital Health Strategy – Safe, Seamless, and Secure: evolving health and care to meet the needs of modern Australia](#) in collaboration with partners across the community. The Agency is the System Operator of [My Health Record](#), and provides leadership, coordination, and delivery of a collaborative and innovative approach to utilising technology to support and enhance a clinically safe and connected national health system. These improvements will give individuals more control of their health and their health information, and support healthcare providers to deliver informed healthcare through access to current clinical and treatment information. Further information: www.digitalhealth.gov.au.