



Dr Ewen McPhee My Health Record Observations

Ewen has been using the My Health Record for over five years. In that time there has been changes in usability and value. The My Health Record is new technology. Rural doctors can share knowledge and experience of the value and uses of this technology. Now patients know it is there, they are starting to ask to have their health information sent to it.

With 90% of Australians having a My Health Record, larger volumes of health information are in the record and the record has become useable. Patients don't always remember their medications and interactions with health providers, making information availability one of the big benefits for doctors, saving time phoning around for patient information and therefore improving the speed of clinical decisions.

The My Health record supports patient confidentiality. GPs need to talk to patients when uploading their health information. Patients can assist in curating their own health summary. As a GP and Obstetrician, Ewen finds it is very important to have a conversation with his patients about their My Health Record and what is being uploaded. Making the point that the record is empty until uploads are done is part of a GP's responsibility for providing quality care. Their health information is available to other clinicians with their consent. Patients don't have to have a My Health Record but there are important pieces of information that would be important in an emergency.

Patients can keep track of their health information when on holiday or travelling interstate or even overseas.

There is an opportunity for doctors and practices to become more transparent with their patients. Patients can correct misapprehensions by GPs when they can see what has been written.

There is more information and usability being developed. Overtime, this will reduce duplicated tests and health costs more generally.

Health information belongs to the patient. Patient control is very important and should remain.

There are very stringent security and access rules that protect patient information in My Health Record.

My Health Record is an opportunity for health services and providers to share information and join up health services within the health system for better care coordination. Ewen is very keen to encourage other health providers like specialists to engage with and use the information now available in My Health Record.

There are patients from diverse cultures who will benefit from the curated information available in the MHR to improve health literacy and communication.

There are future opportunities within the My Health Record but fundamentally it is incumbent on everyone to use and improve the system and work together for better safer outcomes

Dr Ewen McPhee talks in detail about the My Health Record, its ongoing development and how it has changed since its implementation in 2012: <https://vimeo.com/366168996>