

AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE

TRIM: D15-18260

PCEHR/HI Discussion Paper Feedback
Department of Health
MDP 1003
GPO Box 9848
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Sir/Madam,

Submission on the Electronic Health Records and Healthcare Identifiers: Legislation Discussion Paper

I am writing in response to the call for submission on the referred Legislation Discussion Paper. The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission) has supported the use and uptake of the Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record (PCEHR), to be rebranded as the MyHealth Record (MyHR).

With regard to patient safety and health care quality, the Commission continues to believe that such a record would:

- have the potential to reduce medicine related adverse events
- improve continuity of care
- improve clinician access to treatment and diagnostic information, leading to better outcomes for consumers
- enable a consumer centred approach to health care

The Commission supports the proposed legislative changes outlined in the paper. These amendments, coupled with the streamlined participation arrangements and meaningful use incentives for providers, will further assist in achieving these safety and quality benefits.

At the same time, the Commission notes the growing international evidence electronic health records can introduce new patient safety risks unless targeted auditing and proactive monitoring of the system is integrated into the overall function of the system. In particular, the shift to an opt-out system will necessitate appropriate consideration of the extent of clinical safety risks that a MyHR-related issue will create in the future.

As the legislative changes are further canvassed and refined in the coming months, the Commission is ready to support the Department in providing expert advice and guidance on any clinical safety implications that stakeholders may raise with regards to the amendments. The contact person from the Commission is:

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Yours sincerely



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