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The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) welcomes the introduction of the My Health Record (My HR) system.

Australian patients and the Australian healthcare system would benefit significantly from more effective use of digital health, including greater use of electronic health records according to the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP).

Having a personal digital health record will make the health system safer and more effective.

Patients stand to benefit from:

- reduced frequencies of medication error and adverse drug events
- reduced errors due to illegible handwriting and lost paper records
- better management of patients with complex illnesses who need to see many health care providers
- better targeted treatment of renal and other chronic conditions in remote Indigenous communities
- reductions in duplication and overutilization of medical imaging and pathology requests.

Many of the above potential benefits are potentially life-saving.

The ability to review the information contained in the My HR also ensures that patients have the potential for much greater engagement with the management of their diseases. Patients will always have the option to control who has access to information and to what information is contained in their My HR, as well as strong legal protections against misuse of their information.

The healthcare sector has for too long lagged other sectors in digital innovation. My HR provides a significant impetus for improvement by enhancing opportunities for health professionals (including GPs, specialists and diagnostic professionals) and hospitals to increase their involvement in digital health.

Having health information more readily accessible to more health professionals will also enhance the prospects for better integrated healthcare and make the health system function more effectively. At the same time, the RACP supports clarification of any ambiguities or misconceptions around access rules to ensure that patient confidence in My HR is maintained. In particular, in order to enhance community engagement in My HR, outstanding concerns being raised currently regarding privacy protection of sensitive data need to be addressed.