

ACCESS TO YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION

You may ask practice staff about any aspect of your healthcare, including information contained in your record. You can request access to your medical record and any other information the practice records about you.

If you request access to your medical record, your GP will need to consider if there may be a risk of physical or mental harm to you or any other person that may result from disclosure of your health information. Your GP may need to remove any information that will affect the privacy of other individuals.

Sharing information is important for good communication between you and practice staff. Your GP is able to provide a full explanation of the health summary or medical record you are provided access to.

Depending on what is involved, you may be asked to contribute to the cost of providing the information.

DIRECT MARKETING

This practice has a mailing list and routinely sends out newsletters. However, you will not be placed on our mailing list without your prior consent.

RESOLVING CONCERNS REGARDING THE PRIVACY OF YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION

If you have any concerns regarding the privacy of your personal health information or the accuracy of the information held by the practice, you should discuss these with practice staff. Inaccurate information can be corrected or your concerns noted in your record. For legal reasons, the original notes will be retained.

CONTACTS

If you have questions or a complaint about the privacy of your personal information, please ask to speak to our practice administrator.

PRACTICE CONTACT DETAILS

The Health Lodge

74-78 Bangalow Road, BYRON BAY NSW 2481

02 6685 6445 I Info@thehealthlodge.com.au

FURTHER INFORMATION ON PRIVACY

Office of the Australian

Information Commissioner

1300 363 992 I www.oaic.gov.au

Information and Privacy Commission

NSW I 1800 472 679

www.ipc.nsw.gov.au/privacy/ipc_index.html

PATIENT PRIVACY 2025



PURPOSE

This pamphlet explains how personal information about you and your health is recorded and managed in our practice. We also have a written privacy policy describing how we manage personal information. You can receive a copy of our policy free of charge upon request.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

The 'personal information' we collect includes your name, date of birth, address, contact details, next of kin and emergency contact details, Medicare number, healthcare identifiers and health fund details. Medical information may include medical history and any care you may need. GPs need information about your past and present health in order to provide you with high-quality care.

Our practice follows the guidelines of the RACGP's Handbook for the management of health information in general practice. The Handbook incorporates federal and state privacy legislation, and the Australian Privacy Principles, which requires that your personal information is kept private and secure.

YOUR MEDICAL RECORDS

This practice takes steps to ensure that your medical records:

- are accurate, complete, well-organised and legible
- are up-to-date
- contain enough information to allow another GP to care for you
- contain a summary of your care
- can be used to remind you, with your permission, to return for follow up, check-ups and reviews.

If you are uncertain why information is being requested, please ask your GP or the practice staff. If you wish to remain anonymous while accessing healthcare services, please talk to the practice staff.

PROVIDING YOUR INFORMATION TO OTHER GP'S

In this practice, it is normal for all GPs to have access to your medical records. If you have any concerns about this please discuss them with your GP or practice staff.

It is important that other people involved in your care, such as medical specialists and other healthcare professionals, are informed of the relevant parts of your medical history, so they can provide the best care for you. Your GP will let you know when this is necessary.

SECURITY OF INFORMATION IN THE PRACTICE

Australian privacy legislation applies to all personal health information recorded in electronic and paper records. All records must be kept secure to protect against unauthorised access. This practice complies with these requirements to protect your information.

PROVIDING YOUR INFORMATION TO OTHERS

GPs respect your right to decide how your personal information is used or shared. For example, this may be sharing your health information with specialist doctors. Personal information that identifies you will only be sent to other people with your consent, unless there are exceptional circumstances. Gaining your consent is the guiding principle used by this practice in using and sharing your information.

Our practice will not share your personal health information with anyone else or another organisation unless:

- you have consented to this sharing, or
- they are legally obliged to disclose the information, in which case your GP will first discuss

- with you the information that she or he is legally obliged to disclose, or
- the information is necessary for you to obtain Medicare payments or other health insurance rebates, or
- there is an overriding public health and safety interest in the release of the information.

In the above cases, only information necessary to meet the requirements will be provided. Your health information will not ordinarily be sent overseas unless:

- you are informed and provide consent for this to occur, and
- the overseas country receiving the information has privacy laws that are very similar to the Australian Privacy Principles.

USING HEALTH INFORMATION FOR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AND RESEARCH

This practice may use patient health information to assist in improving the quality of care we give to all our patients, by reviewing the treatments used in the practice.

Your information held by the practice may be used in research projects to improve healthcare in the community; however, this information will not include data that can identify you.

The information used for research, including the publication of research results, will not be in a form that would allow you to be identified, unless the research serves an important public interest. In such cases, identifiable medical records can be used for medical research without your consent under guidelines issued by the Australian Government. Before providing such identified information, your GP will discuss with you the information that she or he is obliged to disclose.

MY HEALTH RECORD SYSTEM

The Health Lodge participates in the My Health Record system. Under the My Health Records Act 2012, healthcare provider organisations are authorised to upload information to the My Health Record System, and view information in the system.

You have control over what information is uploaded to your record and can request that a particular document is not uploaded. If you do not wish for your information or documents to be uploaded into your My Health Record, please let your practitioner know.

It is your choice whether you participate in the My Health Record system, for more information visit www.myhealthrecord.gov.au.