

My Health Record still not worth its \$2b investment

A new report shows it has a long way to go



24th November 2017

1 Comment

The future looks grim for the Federal Government's My Health Record unless its inherent problems are addressed, new figures suggest.

GP groups have been scathing about cost blowouts and its slow implementation - it has taken five years to develop at an estimated cost of \$2 billion.

However, take up is painfully slow.

In August, just 200 GP-generated shared health summaries were accessed by hospital staff.

New figures released by the Australian Digital Health Agency suggest that clinicians and health services remain unconvinced the site adds value, says the CEO of the Australian Healthcare and

Hospitals Association, Alison Verhoeven.

Dr Nathan Pinski, chair of the RACGP's expert committee for eHealth and practice systems, agrees.

"GPs have existing, well-developed local systems and software to collect and manage patient medical information," he told *Healthcare IT News*.

"Most of the clinical information needed by a patient's GP is usually already available without the need to access an external source."

As Ms Verhoeven sees it, one of the biggest problems with My Health Record is that "the system isn't useful" when a patient sees a different healthcare provider from their usual one.

"I think there are well-founded concerns about the substantial investment that has been made to date in the My Health Record for limited results," she told *Healthcare IT News*.

By the end of 2018 every Australian will have a My Health Record unless they opt out.

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