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Less power to the patients: AMA

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Patients should not be able to control access to core clinical information in their electronic medical record, the AMA says.

Critical of the Federal Government's new My Health Record system, AMA president Dr Michael Gannon says doctors cannot rely on it.

While he says the AMA supports the concept of a national shared health summary system, he argues that giving patients the power to control what goes on the health record and who can view it is a fraught strategy and a “big handicap to its clinical usefulness”.

Releasing the AMA’s updated Position Statement, Shared Electronic Medical Records 2016, Dr Gannon said it was vital that doctors had access to all relevant information.

“All shared electronic health records must include core clinical information that is not subject to patient controls,” the AMA Position Statement says.

Dr Gannon said the system had generated little interest among patients or doctors since it was launched earlier this year. In April just 798 health providers had uploaded a shared health summary to the system.

My Health Record replaces Labor’s troubled Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record system (PCEHR). Trials of its opt-out arrangements are due to start in July.

You can view the AMA Position Statement [here](#).

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An electronic health record is only as useful as the information it holds can be relied on. The benefits that we have been "sold" about electronic health records is that they will allow health professionals to access significant health information more readily thereby improving the efficiency and safety of health care. If you can't rely on the information being complete, then the advantages of the health record become moot, and all we are left with is the cost an inconvenience...