

Appendix 4: Post Test Survey

Section A: Patient information in general practice

In Australia general practitioners (GPs) are the first and primary source of health care for most people. Information about you is recorded in your general practice record, mostly in computers.

The record may include your symptoms, what the GP finds when they examine you, your blood test results, diagnoses, medications and other treatments, and communications with other health professionals. The record may also include non-medical information, such as aspects of your personal life, work life, and/or family situation.

GPs sometimes share the information in patient records with other people and organisations.

Everyone who handles your information is covered by privacy laws or privacy principles as well as other legal obligations to protect the information in your record.

Information in your general practice record can only be shared for specific purposes.

In answering these questions, please assume that the GP and everyone your information is shared with will abide by all relevant laws and will do everything they can to minimise risks to your privacy. However, it is still possible that you may be identified from some of the information shared about you.

We are interested in understanding who you think your general practice information is being shared with and whether you agree with this.

In answering these questions, please assume that the GP and everyone your information is shared with will abide by all relevant laws and will do everything they can to minimise risks to your privacy. However, it is still possible that you may be identified from some of the information shared about you.

4. Do you think information from your general practice record is being shared with the following people?

Answer all items. One response per row.

	Yes	No	I do not know
(a) Me			
(b) My immediate family members			
(c) Other staff in the general practice, e.g., other GPs, practice nurse,			
(d) Hospital health professionals e.g., doctors or nurses			

(e) Emergency personnel e.g., ambulance staff			
(f) Other medical specialists, e.g., surgeon, cardiologist			
(g) Allied health professionals, e.g., pharmacist or psychologist			
(h) Health administrators and planners in government			
(i) Researchers in a university			
(j) Researchers in a government department			
(k) Health researchers in private industry, e.g., a pharmaceutical company			

5. To what extent do you agree with information from your general practice record being shared with the following people?

Answer all items. One response per row.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
(a) Me					
(b) My immediate family members					
(c) Other staff in the general practice, e.g., other GPs, practice nurse,					
(d) Hospital health professionals e.g., doctors or nurses					
(e) Emergency personnel e.g., ambulance staff					
(f) Other medical specialists, e.g., surgeon, cardiologist					
(g) Allied health professionals, e.g., pharmacist or psychologist					
(h) Health administrators and planners in government					

(i) Researchers in a university					
(j) Researchers in a government department					
(k) Health researchers in private industry, e.g., a pharmaceutical company					

Section B: For what reasons can general practice information be shared?

There are a number of reasons why GPs share the information in your patient record with other people.

We are interested to know what you think are the reasons for your general practice information being shared and whether you agree with this.

In answering these questions, please assume that the GP and everyone your information is shared with will abide by all relevant laws and will do everything they can to minimise risks to your privacy. However, it is still possible that you may be identified from some of the information shared about you.

6. Do you think information from your general practice record is being shared for the following reasons?

Answer all items. One response per row.

	Yes	No	I do not know
(a) To directly support my personal health care			
(b) For my GP to improve the health services they provide			
(c) For the government to improve health services generally			
(d) For research in universities, hospitals or publicly funded research organisations			

7. To what extent do you agree with information from your general practice record being shared for the following reasons?

Answer all items. One response per row.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
(a) To directly support my personal health care					
(b) For my GP to improve the health services they provide					

(c) For the government to improve health services generally					
(d) For research in universities, hospitals or publicly funded research organisations					

Section C: Sharing and linking general practice information for research

We would like to know more about your views on sharing information from your general practice record **specifically for research**.

Researchers can do more valuable research if they can bring together information, not just from your GP, but also from other places such as hospital, education, and social services records.

When your general practice information is used for research, there are special safeguards.

A Human Research Ethics Committee must consider each research project to ensure that the researchers will protect the privacy and security of your general practice information by, for example, not sharing the information with anyone outside the research team and not publishing anything that would identify individual patients.

In this research example the researchers will not have your name or address. However, it is still possible that the researchers may be able to work out who you are from information provided about you.

We would like to know what you think about information from your general practice record being linked with other information about you from other sources for specific research purposes. Please remember that the researchers will not have your name or address. However, it is still possible that the researchers may be able to work out who you are from information provided about you.

8. To what extent do you agree with information from your general practice record being linked with information about you from the following sources for specific research purposes?

Answer all items. One response per row.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
(a) Other health service records, e.g., hospital and ambulance records					
(b) Education department records					
(c) Social service records, e.g., disability, housing and childcare services					
(d) Criminal justice records					

SECTION D: Trust in GP and general practice records

9. To what extent do you agree with the following statements about your GP and sharing information from your general practice record?

Please remember, the GP and everyone your information is shared with will abide by all relevant laws and will do everything they can to minimise risks to your privacy. However, it is still possible that you may be identified from some of the information shared about you.

Answer all items. One response per row.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
(a) I am confident that my GP will take care of the information in my general practice record appropriately					
(b) There are some aspects of the information in my general practice record I would rather my GP did not share with anyone else					
(c) I would want to know when the information in my general practice record is being shared					
(d) I would want to know who the information in my general practice record is being shared with					
(e) I would want to know why the information in my general practice record is being shared					
(f) I would be willing to let my GP decide who can see information from my health record without informing me					
(g) My name, address and date of birth must be removed before my general practice information is shared					

10. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your views on using information from your general practice records?

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