

Facts for Providers: AccessMyHealth.org

Advantages of online health record-keeping – partnering with patients – being promoted by state partnership

AccessMyHealth.org is exploring ways to securely compile individuals' personal health information in one place so that doctors can have the benefit of working with more fully engaged patients.

The AccessMyHealth.org partnership, convened by the Washington State Health Care Authority, is supporting the implementation of online personalized health records to help patients gather and store their health information.

Our belief: patients are more likely to adhere to treatment plans and get better outcomes when they take more responsibility for their health information.

One way to encourage this responsibility is by giving patients copies of their health information, along with the tools they need to participate in their healthcare. Online personalized health records provide an easy way for patients to bring updated information, like medication lists, prior labs, and imaging studies to each visit.

Online tools for health information can help doctors and patients share and compare health data, creating efficiencies from registration to exam room to payment.

A more complete health record managed by patients – that is portable and durable and more fully accessible by the patient – could improve the flow of clinical information from one clinical source to another, while it could lessen-the-load for patients' HIPAA consent requirements related to sharing information.

An online personalized health record is a great leap forward in providing an organized way for patients to gather and maintain a copy of their own health information, and bring this information to their appointments. By giving them tools to share their information at the point of care, we can begin to achieve the efficiency of complete information while simultaneously engaging patients in their own care in ways that have been shown to improve clinical outcomes.

Online personalized health records work without requiring doctors to adopt new technology or change clinical work flow in their offices.

AccessMyHealth.org is exploring online personalized health care information sharing that does not require the doctor to input or update information or revise work flow. The patient is responsible for managing the information in his or her own copy of the online health record and sharing that information with the doctor during the visit.

Privacy, security and convenience are our highest priorities.

Personal health information is near and dear to everyone – and must be protected. Help us define the privacy and security standards needed. What can be designed into the online health record so that it offers ultimate convenience while still meeting strong confidentiality expectations?

AccessMyHealth.org is working with HCA's Health Record Bank demonstration pilots.

The Health Care Authority has funded three pilot projects to help test the feasibility and usefulness of online health record bank accounts to see if they offer a useful way for consumers to maintain, track and use their personal health information. These pilot sites are using Google Health and Microsoft Health Vault as their underlying technologies. AccessMyHealth.org is partnering with the pilot sites to help them get started.

Make sure your opinion is heard!

AccessMyHealth.org is interested in learning what steps can be taken by doctors and patients to improve sharing of health information. Prior to testing the functionality of online health records in early 2009, we are building consumer interest, conducting research with organizations and individuals, and coalescing support. You can help by providing us feedback about the requirements and potential uses of the online record. You can participate at any level; answer a brief survey, take a telephone call, set up an online personal health record, or something in between. We welcome all Washingtonians—doctors and patients—to weigh in with their ideas.

We strongly encourage you to find out more and work with us to make sure that online personal health records in Washington State meet the needs of both patients and their doctors. Learn more at www.AccessMyHealth.org.