

5.2 Linkage of the demographic details on Medicare to the HI details:

This legislation is forcing the HI details and the Medicare details to be the same as an individual cannot update their personal HI details without updating the Medicare details.

This raises a number of concerns:

Individuals should be able to dissociate the payment details in Medicare from the HI details and the electronic health record. I should be able to separate out my care details in the HI record from my payment details.

I should be able to change the address for my treatment and have pathology results sent to the HI address while the Medicare rebate is sent to the Medicare address (if I choose to claim Medicare).

Ultimately healthcare consumers want one bill and the Medicare data may need to be shared with other Health Insurance providers. If these personal details are the same as the HI details then the legislation is ineffective.

Any linkage between the 2 records should be for patient convenience and based on the patient's choice not Legal obligation.

Also, if my particulars are recorded in Medicare before they can be changed on my HI record, then there needs to be tighter legislation on the Medicare data. If there are strict controls on the HI data, then the same controls need to be applied to the Medicare data if the data held on Medicare is a copy of the HI data.

There needs to be a record/ audit trail of all the searches performed in Medicare which reveal personal details if I am to have a true record of who is accessing my data e.g. A Medicare operator performing a Medicare search in a Medicare office, unlike a HI search, will retrieve a number of possible matches revealing details that were not entered by the operator.

Individuals should be able to dissociate the payment details in Medicare from their HI and care details.