

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-471

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: EHEALTH - LEGISLATION AND PERSONAL CONTROL

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

According to the AMA "Under the proposed arrangements people will be able to alter their health record without consultation with their doctor. "Patients could entirely remove from their record clinical documents that they had previously considered worth sharing with healthcare providers. "This is a very dangerous precedent that could undermine all the potential benefits of an electronic health record." How does NEHTA respond to these particular concerns?

Answer:

As they can today, patients can be, and are, selective about what they choose to tell their doctors and what documents they choose to make available to their doctors for a range of reasons. Clinicians ask the consumer as a matter of good clinical care, if there is anything else which is relevant to the current presentation.

Patients will be able to remove clinical documents from their personally controlled electronic health record without consultation with their doctor. However, when consumers register, and each time they seek to remove a document, they will be informed of the implications of removing documents of clinical significance.

It is not expected that the majority of consumers will be inclined to remove documents of clinical significance and, if they do, they will be encouraged to speak to their doctor before doing so.