



Australian Government

Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

# Modernising Australia's Health System

## *Digital and Data Reforms*

*How digital and data tools and capabilities are  
reshaping the patient experience*

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# We are shaping the future of digital health and its role to support the Australian Government's highest priority reform areas



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Recent primary care reviews have highlighted:

**Blended funding models** would better support more coordinated and **multidisciplinary care**.

Digital health is critical for supporting **multidisciplinary care teams** and their capacity to adopt new models of care and **new referral pathways**.

A **primary care data collection** is key to identifying and systemically measuring outcomes.



The National Health Reform Agreement  
Mid-term Review recognises that:

A **digitally enabled workforce** is key for an effective and efficient health system.

**All governments need to commit to progressing digital health** to improve health service integration and clinical decision making.

**Information must follow the patient**, no matter where they present, to support quality care.

The **collection, curation and analysis of health data** will enhance equity, efficiency and patient outcomes.

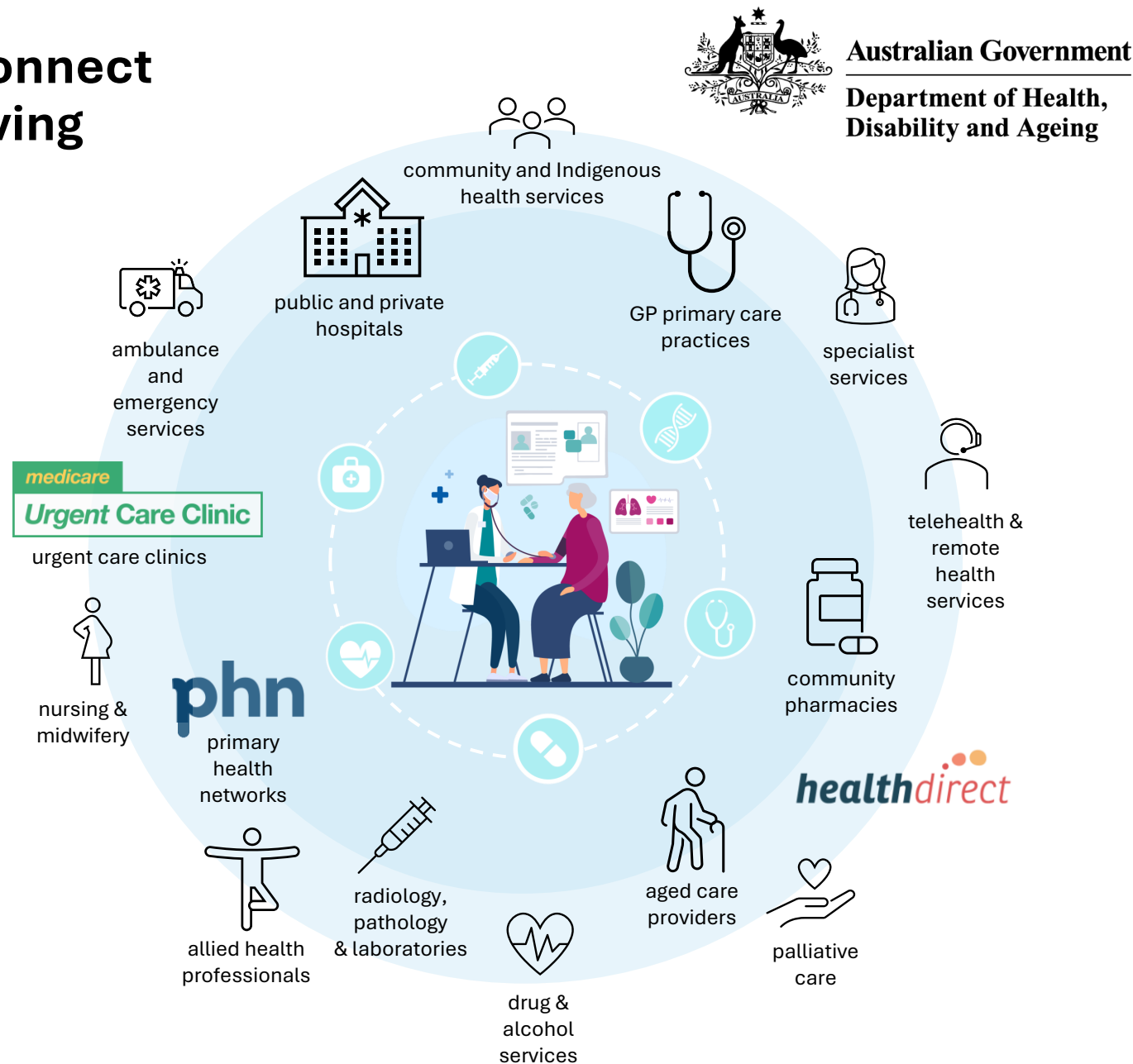
Data and digital is a critical enabler of a modern and connected health system

# Our digital health initiatives aim to connect all parts of the health system, improving healthcare access, experience and outcomes for all Australians

We are driving towards a modern health system that provides a more **connected care** experience for all Australians...

...where health information is **organised around the patient** so that it can be easily accessed by all members of their healthcare team, no matter where they present...

...and consumers can easily navigate between services, providers and care settings, to access **the right care at the right time**.



# Healthcare Identifiers Legislative Framework Reform



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## Background

- The Healthcare Identifier Framework was established in 2010.
- Healthcare Identifiers provide a way of ensuring that an entity that provides, or an individual who receives, healthcare is correctly matched to health information that is created when healthcare is provided.
- Achieved through a unique identifying number for individuals and providers. Currently there are three types, these are:
  - **Individual Healthcare Identifier (IHI)** (Consumers)
  - **Healthcare Provider Identifier – Individual (HPI-I)**
  - **Healthcare Provider Identifier- Organisation (HPI-O)**
- Mid 2022, a national review and consultation process was undertaken to review the Healthcare Identifier Framework to ensure it meets health service needs and evolving digital health capabilities.
- As a result of this, proposed changes to the Healthcare Identifier Act *and* Healthcare Identifier Regulations will be implemented in phases.

## Overview of upcoming Healthcare Identifier Framework changes

### Healthcare Identifiers Amendments accompanying Aged Care Reforms will:

- Enable use of Healthcare Identifiers for health, health-related, and health administration purposes.
- Introduce new authorisations for:
  - **Healthcare Support Service Providers (HSPs)** (organisations)
  - **Health Administration Entities (HAEs)**
- Allied health professionals who are not regulated by Ahpra will have more efficient processes to obtain an HPI-I.
- Enhanced use of Healthcare Identifiers to underpin the sharing and management of health information across health, care and support service delivery.
- Support accurate identification and linkage of health information across health and care systems and services.

# Increased sharing improves continuity of care and reduces duplication

## Modernising My Health Record – Sharing by Default Act 2025



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### Why is this important?

- **4 million reports uploaded** to My Health Record. 1.2 million consumer views a week (May 2025)
- **1.2 million consumer views** a week (May 2025)
- **\$11m year 1** conservative estimate of savings because of Sharing by Default for pathology & Diagnostic Imaging
- **6.3% reduction in pathology tests** and **12.5% potential reduction in Diagnostic Imaging tests** due to Alert systems in public hospitals\*
- **7-20% of tests are unnecessarily ordered** because healthcare providers either don't know about or don't have access to results from previous tests\*
- Quicker access to accurate health information leads to better healthcare decisions and reduces low value care\*

\*Productivity Commission (2024) Leveraging digital technology in healthcare.

### What has been achieved to date:

2023-24

- July 2023 **Program commences**
- Sept-Oct 2023 **Public consultation (416 submissions)**
- May 2024 **Consultation Report published - Better/Faster Access**

2024-25

- Nov 2024 **Legislation introduced**
- Feb 2025 **Legislation passed**  
*Modernising My Health Record – Sharing by Default Act 2025*
- July 2025 - uploads of reports have increased to 46 percent for Diagnostic Imaging and 68 percent for Pathology reports

### Where to next?

Public and private sector consultation will commence shortly, supporting the establishment of the **Sharing by Default Rule** for pathology and diagnostic imaging by end 2025. The department is currently exploring opportunities for future areas of expansion (pending consideration of Government) including:


- End 2025** ● **Share by Default Rules in place - Path/DI**  
**Removal of 7-day** consumer access delay policy for pathology/DI reports  
**Event summary/Encounter record** commencing with **UCCs** and **1800 Medicare** virtual GP consults
- End 2026** ● **Chronic Condition** Management Plans  
**Specialist** and **Allied Health** letters from primary care  
**Encounter records** for private online telehealth services
- Early 2027** ● **Health assessments** progressively shared
- End 2027** ● All prescribed and dispensed **medicines events**

# Clinical handovers are safer and more seamless when information follows the patient



## Virtual and/or After-Hours Care

medicare  
Urgent Care Clinic



healthdirect  
1800 medicare

Oliver accesses a virtual GP consultation - an **encounter record** is created and shared to his usual GP and My Health Record.

## Diagnosis and Care Planning

! Oliver's usual GP is notified of his encounter with virtual care.



After a **Health Assessment** is conducted, Oliver and his GP set up a **Chronic Condition Management Plan**, recording his healthcare needs, health and lifestyle goal and agreed actions, treatment and services.

## Treatment and Management

Oliver's care team review his **care plan** to tailor treatment plans and access his **patient summary** for relevant health history, such as recent procedures, allergies and medications.



Oliver's care team contribute **encounter record** updates on his treatment progress and any follow up actions.



### Patient Summary

Problems ~ Allergies ~ Medications ~ Procedures ~ Immunisations ~ Results



# Better data to enable funding reform



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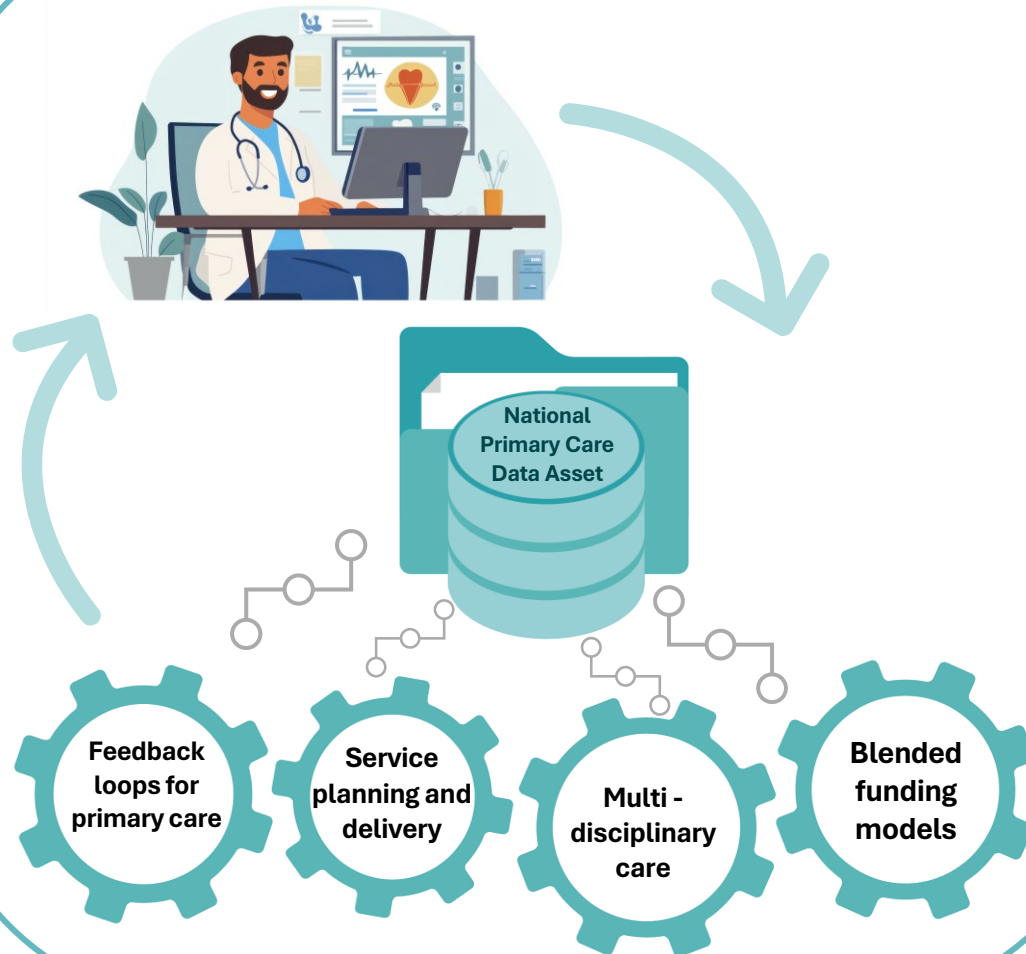


‘The collection, curation and analysis of health data will enhance equity, efficiency and patient outcomes’

## National primary care data asset

Establishing a **comprehensive primary care data collection** to enable the **identification** and **systemic measuring of outcomes**, will:

- support primary care practitioners and practices by creating **feedback loops** so they can deliver **quality value-based care**
- provide **insights on patient care needs** and outcomes that can **inform** the design of **multidisciplinary care pathways**
- support primary care **service delivery planning** at the local, state and national levels.





# Reforms to the system, enablers for healthcare



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## Short term reform opportunities

### Modern Software Ecosystem



- Use of **national standards** such as FHIR to support the collection and sharing of patient health information.
- **Cyber Security Controls** that set higher standards for software providers and industry to protect consumers' data.



- Signal **Cloud first** direction for clinical information systems to improve security, data sharing, innovation and timely implementation of Government initiatives.

- Support software vendors to establish connections between **Allied Healthcare providers** and **My Health Record**, strengthening collaboration within care teams.

- Explore opportunities for the **safe use of AI**, for example AI scribes, pattern recognition, alerts and **clinical decision support** tools to support best practice patient care pathways.



- Explore opportunities to establish a **national electronic Clinical Decision Support capability** to improve patient outcomes and health system productivity, support workforce challenges, and enable a learning health system.



## Longer term enablers of system reform

### A modern and connected health system



- Establishment of a **National health information sharing legislative framework** to support the safe and secure sharing of patient information, including an authorisation and consent framework for the use and re-use of patient data.



- Driven by the Commonwealth and all states and territories under the *Intergovernmental Agreement on National Digital Health 2023-2027*, **Health Connect Australia** will progressively deliver a suite of national capabilities and services to connect all parts of the health system.

- Raising expectations on **states and territories** and the **primary care** sector to **share data** across primary, acute, aged care and disability care settings.

### Electronic Requests and Referrals



- Referrals between health professionals are opaque to consumers and to Medicare, there is opportunity to establish **digital infrastructure** for consumers and providers to **manage referrals** and implement **new referral pathways**.





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# Thank you