

# Introduction to *Records Access*

## DEFINITION OF *RECORDS ACCESS*

*Record Access* is the ability for an individual to see their medical record in an electronic format away from the computer system where it is stored. The individual may be a clinician looking after a patient or it may be the patient. There are different approaches being taken to enable *records access*.



## EMIS/PAERS DEVELOP PATIENT ACCESS TO GENERAL PRACTICE(GP)-HELD MEDICAL RECORDS

EMIS/ PAERS\* have developed a system that enables the patient to see their full medical record via the internet and hence share it with whom they like including friends, family or a clinician from anywhere in the world. This brings significant benefits for both the patient and the clinician looking after the patient but there are issues that are raised for patients, for clinicians and for the authorities overseeing the delivery of health-care that need further exploration.

## *RECORDS ACCESS COLLABORATIVE*

The *Records Access Collaborative*, is made up of GPs, patients and the system suppliers and has written a series of articles to help inform members of the public, clinicians and other interested parties on some of these issues and how to make sense of the implications that *Records Access* now brings forth for the individual and society as a whole. In total there are over 40 articles that cover a range of topics from “The rights and responsibilities of the patient”, “How does a clinician deal with a patient who has access to their medical records”, “Access and Security issues”, “What fears do clinicians in primary care and / or secondary care have and how can they be overcome?”, “Towards Defining Rules, Standards or Guidelines for *Records Access*. The needs for this and some of the challenges”, “*Records Access* and NHS Connecting for Health – how they support each other” through to “The world view on *Records Access*. What is happening in different countries and how have they approached it?”, etc, which can be viewed and commented on at [www.icmcc.org](http://www.icmcc.org), an international website promoting collaborative working

We hope the series of articles stimulate discussion and debate whilst informing and encouraging others to take up *records access* so that they may also offer records access for their patients.

\*EMIS/PAERS is a joint commercial venture between EMIS (Egton Medical Information Systems) the leading clinical system supplier for GP surgeries in the UK, currently supporting 55% of GP practices [www.emis-online.com](http://www.emis-online.com) and PAERS (Patient Access to Electronic Health Records) [www.paers.net](http://www.paers.net)  
The software is provided free to EMIS practices and their patients.

Further information about Records Access is also available on [www.icmcc.org](http://www.icmcc.org) and click on “Records Access”.  
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