Meeting the health needs of the child or young person in your care

As a foster, relative or kinship carer you play an important role in ensuring the health needs of the child or young person in your care are met.

To enable you to do this, Family and Community Services (FACS) provides relevant information about the health needs of the child or young person in your care. This includes their Health Management Plan, which documents their health needs and the services required to meet these needs during their time in out-of-home care.

What is the My Health Record?

The My Health Record is the Australian Government’s new Digital Health system. It is a summary of an individual’s key health information stored in one central location. The following information can be added to the My Health Record:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health care provider can add:</th>
<th>Medicare can add:</th>
<th>Individual can add:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Information from your doctor called a Shared Health Summary</td>
<td>• Medicare information, such as visits to your doctor</td>
<td>• Personal Health Notes</td>
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<td>• Hospital discharge summaries</td>
<td>• Medicines information from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme</td>
<td>• Emergency Contact Details</td>
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<td>• Reports from scans and tests</td>
<td>• Organ donation information</td>
<td>• Indigenous status</td>
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<td>• Medications</td>
<td>• Immunisation records</td>
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<td>• Doctors referral letters</td>
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When will the My Health Record be implemented?

The My Health Record is being implemented through an opt-out process that finishes in November 2018. All Australians, including children under 18, will have a My Health Record created unless they advise the Australian Digital Health Agency that they do not want one.

How will the My Health Record benefit children in out-of-home care?

The My Health Record will help health care providers to better coordinate and share information. This will benefit children in care with complex health needs who may need to see a range of different health care providers.

The My Health Record will ensure children and young people’s key health information remains with them throughout their time in care. It will be available to them if their placement changes and also when they leave care.

To make sure children and young people in statutory out-of-home care have the opportunity to receive these benefits a My Health Record will be created for them.
How will children and young people’s information be kept safe?

Concerns have been raised about who will have access to the information in a child or young person’s My Health Record. A restriction will be placed on their record while they are in care, addressing these concerns.

The My Health Record can only be viewed by Family and Community Services centrally and by children and young people’s health care providers. This measure will ensure details of children, young people and carers remain confidential.

When the child or young person leaves statutory out-of-home care the restriction will be lifted from their My Health Record. The parent, guardian or adoptive parent could then apply to the Australian Digital Health Agency to manage the record.

Why can’t carers access the information in a child or young person’s My Health Record?

Carers do not need to access the information in the My Health Record to meet the health needs of children/young people in their care. All information needed including the child or young person’s Health Management Plan will be provided by your caseworker. The My Health Record is as an information sharing tool to help health care providers and individuals, and is not as detailed as the Health Management Plan.

What happens if the child or young person in my care wishes to access their My Health Record?

Children and young people can take control of their My Health Record from age 14. When a young person turns 18 they will automatically be given responsibility for managing their record. They do not need to manage their record if they choose not to.

A fact sheet has been developed for young people in care to ensure they are aware of the opportunities and risks involved in managing the My Health Record. If a young person in your care aged 14 or over would like to manage their My Health Record, make sure that they speak with their caseworker.

What should I do if I need information about the health of the child or young person in my care?

If you require information or need to talk about the health needs of the child or young person in your care, please speak with your caseworker.

All children and young people in statutory care should undertake screening, assessment, intervention, monitoring and review of their health needs through participation in the out-of-home care Health Pathway. For more information about this program view Factsheet OOHCC Health Pathway: A Carer’s Guide.

Where can I go to find out more about the My Health Record?

More information about the My Health Record is available at MyHealthRecord.gov.au or by contacting the My Health Record Help line on 1800 723 471.