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Views of healthcare professionals on patients having access to their secondary care electronic healthcare record: Results of a cross-sectional questionnaire

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Objective: In 2007, paper notes for patients attending the Regional Leeds CF Units were replaced by secondary care electronic healthcare records (EHRs) with secure patient access functionality. Despite evidence of patient benefit, studies have suggested health care professionals (HCPs) are reluctant to share EHRs with patients [1]. We aimed to identify the HCPs' views on opening secure access for patients to their EHR.

Method: A quantitative analysis of a self-complete paper questionnaire of HCPs' (N=63; 34 Adult, 29 Paediatric) views on sharing EHRs, their concerns about privacy and confidentiality and the required EHR functionality was performed in December 2017.

Results: 64% of HCPs agreed that sharing EHRs would make patients more in control of their medical care with 59% perceiving this would improve understanding of their CF. Of the available EHR functions, 93% believed that up to date medication lists, next out-patient visit date, allergies, repeat test reminder alerts, current and past diagnoses, sputum results and online transfer of clinic letters were important. More than 90% of respondents believed e-communication within the EHR providing patients the ability to write important questions prior to appointments, e-contact with doctors, feedback and appointment scheduling would be valuable. However, 75% of HCPs raised privacy and security concerns; 58% think they will hold back information from patients, and 46% are concerned about patients losing trust in the clinical team. If HCPs were given access to their own records, 95% viewed medication lists, appointment reminders and clinical measures as important.

Conclusion: HCPs in our CF teams believe patient access would give patients more control and understanding of their medical condition. However concerns over privacy and security were high as previously reported in non CF literature.

1. Armstrong, S. Patient access to health records: striving for the Swedish ideal. *BMJ* 357, j2069, doi:10.1136/bmj.j2069 (2017).