Wedgetail Privacy and Security

Privacy is of paramount concern with regard to personal health information.

Health care providers are required to protect the privacy of patients' health information in accordance with the Commonwealth Privacy Act 1988 and other privacy legislation.

Wedgetail complies with both Federal and State Governments' health privacy principles and the privacy and security principles of the National E-Health Transition Authority.

Privacy and control of personal information

Participation in Wedgetail, the Individual Electronic Health Record (IEHR), is voluntary; a patient can choose to participate, and to withdraw, at any time.

When a patient consents to participate in Wedgetail, this consent allows for information to be sent to the IEHR which can be accessed by authorised health professionals.

Health professionals are only authorised to access the health information in a patient's IEHR for the purpose of providing health care, and to check that the information in it is correct.

Patients can request for corrections to be made to information contained in the IEHR at any time by contacting the Wedgetail administrator via email at: wedgetail_admin@nrgpn.org.au.

Wherever practicable, the authorised health professional should access a patient's IEHR only *after* informing them.

Patients have access to their own IEHR; they control what information can be sent to their record and who has access to it.

The health professional should check with a patient before sending information to Wedgetail that may be considered sensitive.

A patient can ask for information not to be included in Wedgetail. The patient can make this request through a participating health care provider.

Where possible, the health professional will provide advice about the consequences of excluding information from Wedgetail.

Wedgetail data may be used for research and evaluation purposes and may be published. Patients will <u>not</u> be personally identified in any way.

System security and privacy

Wedgetail offers opportunities to improve the way in which health records are kept. Electronic storing of records enables boundaries to be set around who can access what information, and when, which improves individual privacy.

Wedgetail uses HeSA's PKI and SSL encryption for the secure transfer of health information to ensure the highest standards in safety and privacy.

Health data is sent to, and retrieved from, the IEHR using International Standard HL7 messaging.

Passwords, audit trails, review processes and other security mechanisms prevent unauthorised people from being able to browse through records.

An access log is automatically generated by Wedgetail to record all users who send information to, or view, an individual's IEHR. This access log, called the audit trail, can be viewed in the Audit section of Wedgetail whenever a patient is logged on to their own IEHR.

The Wedgetail team has secured the server which houses the medical and health information against unauthorised access and will continue to do so to the best of their ability. However, while every effort will be made to keep the information secure, there is always some risk associated with online information.

Adapted from eHealth NT's 'Shared Electronic Health Record - Ensuring Your Privacy'.