

Creepy Single Doctors

Hospitals (and GPs) should have internal logs of who has looked up records, and when. Any doctor doing a search on a patient should be able to justify why they did so. “I want a second date” is not a legitimate reason; nor is ‘looking after you’ by church friends of your parents...

The church friends of your parents – or your first date with someone who’s a doctor – may have been entirely pleasant. During the course of your date you mentioned you’d been treated at the hospital they worked in; things got creepy, however, when they mentioned on a later date that they’d looked up your medical records...

What you can do

Not all hospitals keep track of all record look-ups, and not all hospitals know the truth; nor will all doctors always use their own logins. But it is still worth doing something, if you are inclined to do so – if only to help the next person the creep dates avoid having the same, or a far worse, experience.

If you want to find evidence of inappropriate access to your records, in the first instance you should write to the Chief Executive of the hospital and the National Data Guardian – especially if you were *not* receiving treatment at that hospital at the time of the improper access – and ask them:

- Do you record all accesses to patient records held on your systems?
- Were my records accessed in *[give the month(s) of the access]* ? And if so, from where?
- What are the legitimate reasons for that access / those accesses?

[We have a template letter you can use.](#)

If it is actually the case, you may also wish to say: “I was not receiving direct care from the hospital at the time, but I have grounds to believe my records may have been accessed for reasons unrelated to official uses.”

It is likely that the hospital will in the first instance insist that all record accesses were ‘in the course of’ direct care, not least because to say anything otherwise would be an admission of guilt. If in making this statement they also admit that your records *were* accessed, then the hospital has provided evidence for a professional complaint against the doctor – who operates under medical ethics rules that prohibit dating patients...

GP records

If the inappropriate access was to your GP records, you should be able to see how your record has been accessed via your GP – if not directly yourself, e.g. via your practice’s online service, then by asking them to check the audit log and tell you.

For more information on how to check, see:

<https://medconfidential.org/for-patients/your-records/>

National services

Patient access to the audit log for their Summary Care Record (SCR) is being held up by NHS Digital, for “legal reasons”. Such transparency is entirely possible – but someone doesn’t want you to see...

medConfidential hopes (in future) to compile lists of what each hospital tracks and logs, and what it doesn’t – but that will take time. And it would, in any case, be far better done by NHSX...