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| Dear colleagues,  The Rt. Hon Steve Barclay MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care announced earlier today that the Citizens' Access to Records programme will be going live from today (1 November), his full statement to the House of Commons is copied below: |

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| *“All GP practices will soon be able to automatically provide patients aged 16 and over with access to the latest information in their health records via the NHS app. We are switching on that ability from today, in a process that we expect to be completed by the end of this month. And that is an important milestone for patient empowerment and part of a process that is seeing patients play an even more active role in managing their health and care and I hope that is something across the house that members will welcome on behalf of their patients.”* |

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| In response to the announcement, the BMA issued the following [**statement**](https://bma-mail.org.uk/JVX-8305R-36I8OS-4YR09L-1/c.aspx) calling for clarity over the deployment of the programme and assurances that practices who do not yet feel ready, have ample time as they deem necessary to make preparations in order to ensure patients are protected.  This is a fast-moving situation, however, we have received confirmation that neither EMIS nor TPP will be switching on record access today and that for the time being, default automatic record access will, as a minimum, not be switched on. |

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| [**Access BMA guidance to practices**](https://bma-mail.org.uk/JVX-8305R-36I8OS-4YR02N-1/c.aspx), we recommend that practices follow the guidance and steps as set out. We will be in regular communication as and when the situation updates. |

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| If you have any questions, please get in touch with [**info.gpc@bma.org.uk**](mailto:info.gpc@bma.org.uk?subject=Patient%20access%20to%20medical%20records). |

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| With regards, |

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