Our updated guidance is now available on the BMA website:

<https://www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/gp-practices/gp-service-provision/accelerated-access-to-gp-held-patient-records-2023>

You will see we have offered suggestions on how to comply safely with the imposed contract. Practices will need to make their own decisions on how they wish to proceed. The advice may look complex - it will depend on whether practices use EMIS or TPP, and whether they have 'gone live' yet or not, and whether they feel a bulk switch on for most patients with an opt in approach for those with 104 codes, or an opt in approach for everyone is the way forward their DPIA recommends in order to mitigate against risks of harm. Your DPIA may suggest you invite opt outs first from patients before provisioning access in bulk.

If you have already gone live and your patients are as yet unaware, you may wish to inform them now to mitigate against the risk of their records being exposed to family members who may have access to their mobile devices. The BMA has raised concerns about the risks involved in this programme (see <https://www.bma.org.uk/bma-media-centre/bma-and-refuge-highlight-medical-record-access-concerns-for-survivors-of-domestic-abuse>). Another article explaining the risks has been written by medConfidential (see <https://medconfidential.org/2023/prospective-medical-records-via-the-nhs-app>).

Unless a practice has taken steps to provision access nothing will have happened by itself this week. EMIS practices can provide access entirely manually or through the help of EMIS. TPP practices can switch on access themselves for new patients and run searches and provision access in bulk for existing patients.

Osman Bhatti (North East London ICB) has kindly shared with us his roadmap that you may find helpful to amend in any communication with your ICB. It is available on the web at <https://drbhatti.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Patient-Online-Access-Road-Map.docx>.

The example application form that practices can give to patients to complete to aid the provision of access to records is based on a form created by Ralph Sullivan as part of his work on the RCGP Toolkit. Please see <https://elearning.rcgp.org.uk/mod/book/view.php?id=13455> for the full toolkit.