

# Shipman doc is web pioneer

A GP who took on Harold Shipman's patients has become the first in the world to allow them to see their medical records at home – because they were so suspicious.

Dr Amir Hannan has spent three years developing a secure website which lets patients access their highly confidential records to allay fears and give them more information about treatment.

He hopes the pilot, which currently involves 1,000 patients at the Haughton and Thornley medical centres in Denton and Hyde, and Hadfield medical centre, will be taken up by the NHS and become standard.

After Shipman was arrested detectives discovered the Hyde doctor had altered the computerised medical records of patients in a bid to cover his tracks.

It allowed him to stockpile morphine which he used to murder his elderly victims.

Dr Hannan said: "When I took on Shipman's old patients at the Market Street surgery they really wanted to know what was in their records to see if he had prescribed any drugs in their names. I took the attitude that I have nothing to hide, so showed them.

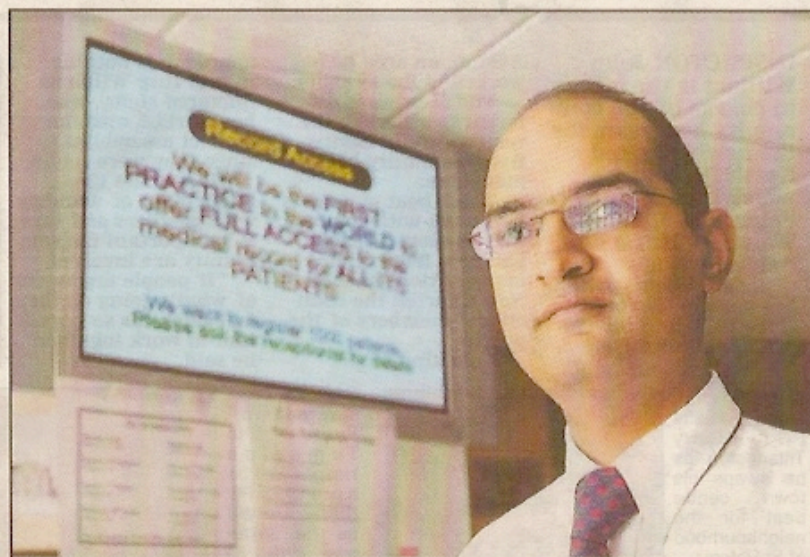
"People became more interested in the information on their own health and what they could do about it. They started to take ownership of their own records instead of leaving it to the doctor. No doctor can ever hide anything in patients' records like Shipman did.

"Instead, patients can stand up proudly and show the world how they helped put the medical profession back in its rightful place."

The development follows Dame Janet Smith's recommendation that GPs and the drugs they prescribe should be monitored more closely.

Dame Janet led the inquiry into Shipman, who murdered 250 of his patients during a 27-year killing spree.

He was found hanged in his cell in Wakefield jail in January 2004.



INVENTION: Amir Hannan, who took on many of Dr Harold Shipman's patients after the serial killer was jailed, has designed a website that gives patients access to their medical records

## Patient access to records is a genuine partnership of trust

RETIRED lecturer David Lerner of Gee Cross, Hyde, is delighted to have instant access to his medical records.

He said: "It establishes a new openness with my doctor and a genuine partnership of trust.

"In practical terms, it means I can order repeat prescriptions online, check when my appointments are and see letters to the hospital and the results of my lab tests as soon as

they reach the surgery. I can also keep an eye on my records and check that my discussions with the doctor have been accurately recorded.

"Maybe of most importance of all is that if I have an accident or illness anywhere in the world medics can gain instant access to my medical records, which may save my life.

"It's a privilege that here in Hyde I am one of the first patients in the world to benefit from this service."

Taken from

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