



# Patient records go online in world first

**A HYDE GP has become the first in the world to develop a system that allows his patients online access to their medical records.**

Dr Amir Hannan, 35, who works at Thornley House Medical Centre in Hyde, took on Harold Shipman's patients in 2000.

Many spoke of their concerns about what had been written in their records, which gave Dr Hannan the idea of providing complete free and secure access.

He said: "For the past three-and-a-half years I have been giving copies of medical records on disc to my patients to improve the relationship I have with them and to show I have nothing to hide."

But because the records soon became out of date Dr Hannan decided to develop a system which allowed online access.

The new system has been developed in collaboration with EMIS, the largest clinical provider for GP systems in England, and PAERS (Patient Access to Electronic Records).

Access is through passwords and the system is as secure as internet banking.

## REPORT BY REBECCA BIRD

About 50 patients at Thornley House Medical Centre and Haughton Dale surgery in Denton have access to their records online and Dr Hannan hopes that the number will increase to 1,000 by the end of the year.

By February 2007 he hopes to role the system out across the country.

He said: "The people of Tameside are going to show the rest of the world how to do it."

However Dr Hannan said there are still issues that need addressing.

He spoke of the difficulties of patients finding out about the results of tests or x-rays before seeing their doctor.

He said: "In a worse case scenario, a patient could find out that they have HIV or cancer over the internet while at home alone."

Dr Hannan also spoke of records being entered incorrectly leading to patients viewing each others private notes.

The system is currently being scrutinised by the PCT Local Care Record Development Board, which

is made up of GPs, patients and medical professionals. Retired lecturer David Lerner from Gee Cross is a patient at Thornley House Medical Centre.

He said: "I am delighted to have instant home access to my medical records.

"It establishes a new openness with my doctor and a general partnership of trust."

He added: "If I have an accident or am injured anywhere in the world, medics can gain instant access to my medical records, which may save my life."

Yvonne Bennett, 58, from Hyde said: "I am one of the first to have their records online – I think it's an excellent idea.

"I don't have to go to the surgery every time I need to order a repeat prescription.

"And by reading my records I can find out if anything has been overlooked by the surgery.

"The system means you take an active part in your health care."

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

To find out more about records access visit [www.icmcc.org](http://www.icmcc.org) and click on records access.



David Lerner, one of Dr Hannan's online patients.

**LEARNING LESSONS:**  
Dr Amir Hannan provides a new online system allowing patients to access their medical records in the wake of Shipman Inquiry recommendations to improve upon transparency. D06-2299

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