

Who can see my medical records?

All physicians, including occupational physicians, must keep professional confidentiality. This is stated in the BIG register (Register for Professions in Individual Health Care). Normally, only your own (occupational) physician can see your medical records. This white paper was created to inform you about this.

Exceptions

If a physician other than your own (occupational) physician wishes to see your records, this is only allowed if you have given explicit permission beforehand. This can be done via a specific authorisation.

There are a few exceptions to this. These exceptions are listed in the KNMG (Royal Dutch Medical Association) Guidelines on Handling Medical Data:

1. In the case of substitution (e.g. due to holidays or illness), the physician's substitute will have temporary access to your records. The substitute will then continue the care provided by your own (occupational) physician.
2. For the use of medical data for quality assurance. The basic principle here is that your data will always be anonymised and cannot be traced back to you.

Quality assurance

We will explain the latter exception, quality assurance, further below.

Quality assurance is carried out everywhere in society, including for physicians.

This can be done in two ways:

1. Your own physician discusses (part of) your records anonymously with colleagues. This concerns medical policy, reintegration policy, reporting and so on. The aim is to learn with and from each other.
2. The occupational health and safety service randomly and periodically has a number of records critically examined by an occupational physician. The aim is to examine and improve the quality of the total medical service provided by Zorg van de Zaak according to the standards of the professional group. The assessing occupational physician pays attention to compliance with guidelines, the handling of deadlines and the organisation and completeness of records, for example. The results of this assessment are always processed anonymously.

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Prior to this quality assessment by another physician, permission to access your medical records must be requested. Moreover, the KNMG stipulates that you must be informed in advance that your records may be used for this purpose and you must be given the opportunity to object to this. Automatic consent is assumed for the assessment of administrative and process-based data.

This whitepaper has been created to inform you about this. In addition, the consultation hour feedback letter includes a paragraph stating that your records may be viewed for quality purposes.

If you would not like your records to be used for quality purposes, you can indicate this to the (occupational) physician. They will then make a note in your records, so that the records can only be viewed by your own (occupational) physician and by their substitute, in the case of substitution.

