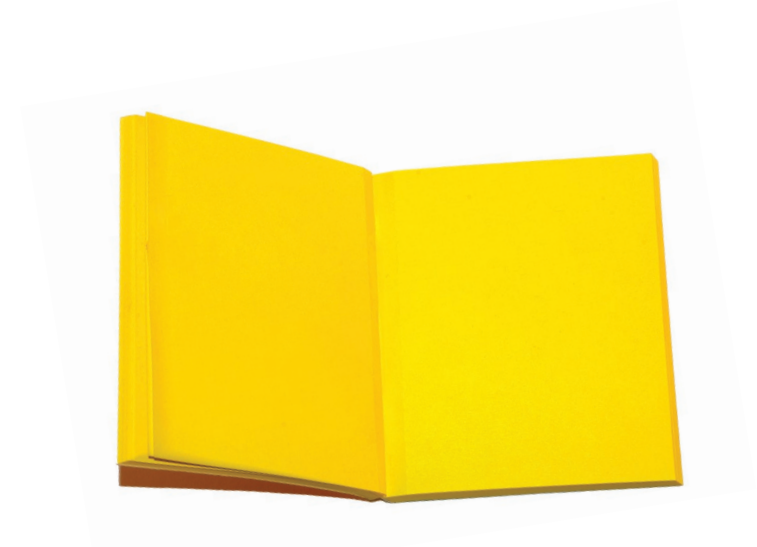


Meetings in confidence.



The patient's right to view his or her medical records

Contacting the Patients' Advisory Committee (Patientnämnden)

08-690 67 00 (8.30–16.00)

Postal address:

Patientnämndens förvaltning
Box 17535, 118 91 Stockholm

Visitors:

Hornsgatan 15, Stockholm

Fax 08-690 67 18

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A patient's right to view his or her medical records is governed by the Swedish Freedom of the Press Act and the Swedish Freedom of Information and Secrecy Act as regards the public health services (county council-run) and the Swedish Patient Data Act as regards independent health services (private enterprise).

General principle

The general principle is that a patient has the right to read or copy from his or her medical records. The patient also has the right to a transcription or copy of his or her records.

In exceptional cases, record contents can be withheld from the patient if with consideration for the aims of the administered care or treatment it is of great importance that these contents are not disclosed. This concerns cases where there is a risk of the patient's health deteriorating considerably if he or she is granted access to the contents of the records. Similarly, medical records can be withheld from a patient if there is a risk that someone who has provided information, or someone close to a person who has provided information, may be subject to violence or other serious consequences if the information is disclosed.

Relatives of a deceased patient can in certain cases be provided access to the patient's medical records.

How do I arrange to view my medical records?

A request to view your medical records should be addressed to the person responsible for keeping your medical records, which is most often the attending physician, and such requests are administered by said person as soon as possible. Generally, as a patient you should not need to wait more than a few days to view your medical records. As a rule, the viewing of medical records cannot be made conditional on a doctor being present to explain the content. Nor may the public health services charge a fee to a patient who wishes to read or copy from his or her medical records. The health services may, however, charge a fee for copies. In Stockholm County Council's public health services the first nine pages are free of charge. A fee of SEK 50 is charged for ten pages, with an extra SEK 2 for each additional page.

If you are refused access to your medical records

It is most often the person who has kept the medical records who decides whether access is granted. If a patient in the public healthcare sector is not granted access to his or her medical records, he or she will be informed of the option to request that the matter be raised with the authorities, this being the directors of the concerned healthcare organisation (hospital or healthcare district). If the authorities reject the patient's request to view his or her medical records, he or she has the right to appeal to the administrative court of appeal.

If a private healthcare provider rejects a patient's request to view his or her medical records the person responsible for keeping the records shall immediately turn the matter over to the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare (Socialstyrelsen) for examination. If the Board also rejects the request, the patient can appeal to the administrative court of appeal.

Amendments to medical records

Occasionally, medical records can contain errors. In order to attempt to get such entries corrected, the patient can contact the person who has kept the records. If an entry is to be corrected, the person responsible for keeping the medical records must agree with the patient that an error has been made. If the patient considers an entry in the medical records to be inaccurate or misleading, however, a note must be made in the records. If the patient or someone else named in the medical records feels that the records should be partially or completely destroyed, an application can be made to the National Board of Health and Welfare (Socialstyrelsen).

Questions on medical records

If you have any questions about medical records or other matters concerning the publicly financed health services in Stockholm County, the national dental service or the dental care financed by the county council, please contact the Patients' Advisory Committee (Patientnämnden) of Stockholm County Council.