

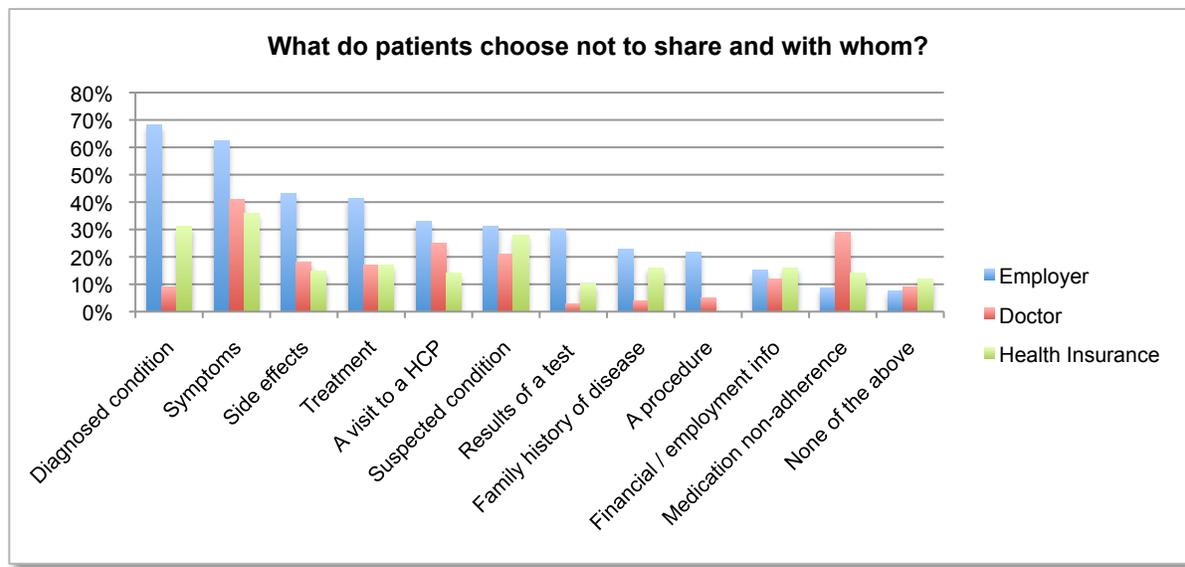
**Background**

According to a new PatientsLikeMe® Poll, almost one in three (29%) patients have withheld certain health information from their doctor. Of the 4,364 poll respondents, all of whom are members of PatientsLikeMe’s online health data-sharing community ([www.patientslikeme.com](http://www.patientslikeme.com)), nearly half (47%) indicate that they have chosen not to share certain health information with an employer, while 14% have withheld information from insurance companies. Full results are below.

Note to Editor: Please source all poll data as originating from PatientsLikeMe®.

**PatientsLikeMe® Poll Methodology**

Between March 22nd and March 29th, PatientsLikeMe invited all members who had been active on the website within the past 90 days to participate in the PatientsLikeMe® Poll; 4,364 members completed the survey. Mean age of respondents was 49 years (SD 12, range 13-84). Types of data not shared and reasons for not sharing were rotated and presented in a different order for each participant.



**PatientsLikeMe® Poll Results**

**DOCTOR**

**Has there ever been a time when you decided not to share certain information with your doctor? (n = 4,364)**

Yes .....	29%
No .....	69%
Does not apply because I don't have a doctor .....	0.4%
I prefer not to answer .....	1.6%

**In the last section, you said that you decided not to share certain information with your doctor. Please tell us which of the following types of information this included: (Check all that apply) (n = 1,267)**

Symptoms I was experiencing .....	41%
Information about my lifestyle (e.g. exercise, diet, smoking, alcohol).....	39%
The fact I wasn't taking my medication properly .....	29%
A visit I made to see another healthcare professional .....	25%
A condition I suspected I had.....	21%
Side effects I was experiencing .....	18%
A treatment I was taking .....	17%
Financial / employment information .....	12%
A condition I had been diagnosed with .....	9%
A procedure I underwent .....	5%
Information about a history of disease in my family .....	4%
Results of a test I underwent .....	3%
None of the above .....	9%

**Why didn't you share this information with your doctor? (Check all that apply) (n = 1,267)**

I didn't want to be lectured or made to feel bad .....	44%
I was too embarrassed to tell them.....	36%
I didn't think it was important.....	22%
I didn't think it was any of their business.....	22%
I forgot / didn't get around to it .....	18%
I was afraid they wouldn't provide a specific treatment or procedure if I told them.....	17%
I didn't want them to recommend a treatment.....	13%
I was afraid they would refuse to keep me as their patient.....	11%
I didn't want to incur additional costs .....	11%
Somebody else asked me to .....	1%
None of the above .....	14%

**EMPLOYER**

**Has there ever been a time when you decided not to share certain information about your health with your employer?**  
(n = 4,364)

Yes .....	47%
No .....	41%
Does not apply because I have never had an employer.....	10%
I prefer not to answer .....	2%

**In the last section, you said that you had decided not to share information with your employer. Please tell us which of the following types of information this included:**  
(Check all that apply) (n = 2,050)

A condition I had been diagnosed with .....	68%
Symptoms I was experiencing .....	62%
Side effects I was experiencing .....	43%
A treatment I was taking .....	41%
A visit I made to see a healthcare professional .....	33%
A condition I suspected I had.....	31%
Results of a test I underwent .....	30%
Information about a history of disease in my family.....	23%
A procedure I underwent .....	22%
Financial / employment information .....	15%
The fact I wasn't taking my medication properly .....	9%
None of the above .....	7%

**Why didn't you share this information with your employer?**  
(Check all that apply) (n = 2,050)

I didn't think it was any of their business.....	66%
I was afraid I would lose my job .....	49%
I was afraid I would damage my chances of promotion.....	35%
I was too embarrassed to tell them.....	19%
I didn't think it was important.....	15%
I was afraid my health insurance would find out .....	6%
I forgot / didn't get around to it .....	2%
Somebody else asked me to .....	1%
None of the above .....	8%

**HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANIES**

**Has there ever been a time when you decided not to share certain information with your health insurance company? (n = 4,364)**

Yes .....	14%
No .....	70%
Does not apply because I don't have health insurance .....	12%
I prefer not to answer .....	4%

**In the last section, you said that you had intentionally decided not to share certain information with your health insurance company. Please tell us which of the following types of information this included: (Check all that apply) (n = 628)**

Symptoms I was experiencing .....	36%
A condition I had been diagnosed with .....	31%
A condition I suspected I had .....	28%
A treatment I was taking .....	17%
Financial / employment information .....	16%
Information about a history of disease in my family .....	16%
Side effects I was experiencing .....	15%
A visit I made to see a healthcare professional .....	14%
The fact I wasn't taking my medication properly .....	14%
Results of a test I underwent .....	10%
A procedure I underwent .....	6%
None of the above .....	12%

**Why didn't you share this information with your insurance company? (Check all that apply) (n = 628)**

I didn't think it was any of their business.....	41%
I was afraid they would refuse to cover me at all.....	39%
I was afraid they wouldn't cover a specific treatment/procedure/other medical claim .....	39%
I didn't want my premiums to go up .....	25%
I didn't think it was important.....	15%
I was too embarrassed to tell them.....	11%
I didn't want family member's premiums to go up.....	10%
I forgot / didn't get around to it .....	6%
Somebody else asked me to .....	2%
None of the above .....	10%