

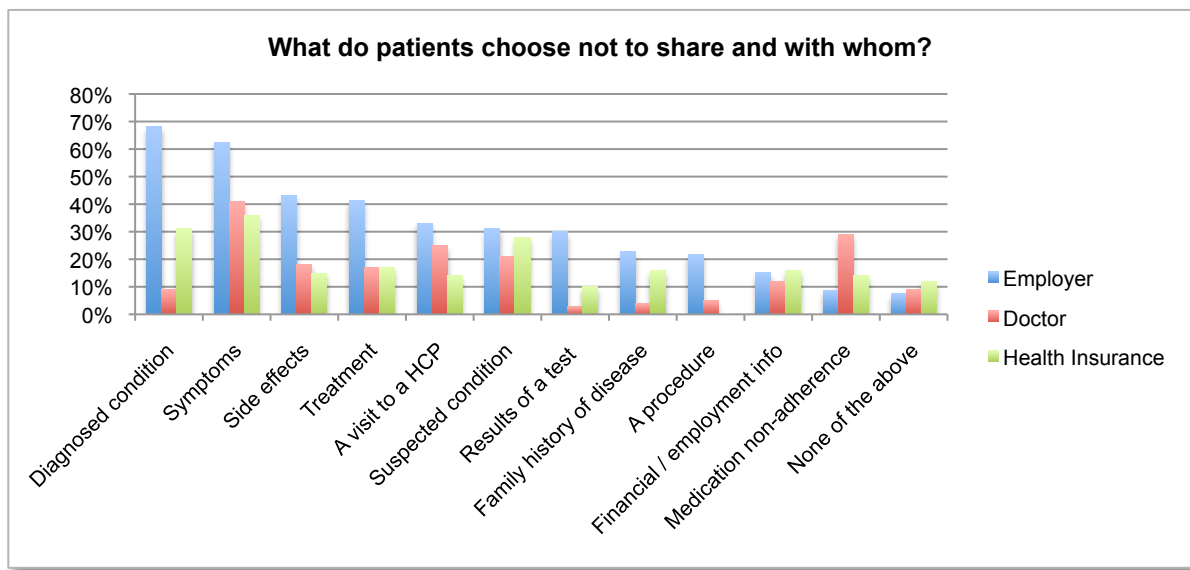
Background

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), 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%