

**Can a patient remove untrue and negative comments made by a doctor from his or her medical record?**

I had a doctor who wrote some very unfair and negative comments in my medical record that, besides being untrue, are preventing me from getting the care I need. How can I review my medical records, and is it possible to have the untrue comments removed?

**Abbie:** The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule establishes minimum federal standards for protecting the privacy of individually identifiable health information. In addition, the rule gives individuals certain rights pertaining to their medical records, including rights to access and amend their health information and to obtain a record of when and why their personal health information has been shared with others for certain purposes. This means health insurers and providers who are covered entities must comply with your right to review your records. Further, you may request a copy of those records and ask to have corrections added to your health information. If the provider or plan does not agree to your request, you have the right to submit a statement of disagreement that the provider or plan must add to your record. HIPPA also allows you to file a complaint if you believe your rights are being denied. For information about your rights under HIPPA, go to [www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-individuals/guidance-materials-for-consumers/index.html](http://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-individuals/guidance-materials-for-consumers/index.html).

**Will IG Eventually Contain Antibodies to COVID-19?**

Will immune globulin (IG) eventually contain antibodies to the COVID-19 virus from donors who have recovered from it? If yes, will this apply also to IgA-depleted serum to treat those with antibodies to IgA even though the serum undergoes additional processing to achieve the depletion?

**Abbie:** I spoke with Leslie J. Vaughan, RPh, chief operations officer at Nufactor, a Specialty Infusion Company, and H. Kobayashi, MD, an allergist and immunologist in Omaha, Neb., regarding your question. They said that if enough people exposed to COVID-19 develop antibodies, it is reasonable to assume IG produced from that plasma may contain antibodies. But, unless the U.S. Food and Drug Administration requires manufacturers to test for COVID-19 antibodies, it may never be known whether they are present. Assuming mass exposure and antibody development in the next several months, IG would likely contain COVID-19 antibodies nine to 12 months post-peak exposure. Therefore, there likely won't be any antibodies in IG products for a long time, minimally a year.

There has been very little IgA in IG products since the 1980s, and there is even less now. Further, the commercial products that eventually contain anti-COVID-19 antibodies will be prepared in the same way, so it will be safe. Many patients with common variable immune deficiency and particularly those with X-linked agammaglobulinemia have low or no IgA [secretory or otherwise] and yet have little or no infections after starting IG replacement therapy.

**» Have a question?** Email us at [editor@IGLiving.com](mailto:editor@IGLiving.com). Your information will remain confidential unless permission is given.



ABBIE CORNETT is the patient advocate for *IG Living* magazine. She can be reached at [patientadvocate@igliving.com](mailto:patientadvocate@igliving.com) or (800) 843-7477 x1366.