

NHS ENGLAND care.data

There are changes coming in how we protect the information that we record in your medical record. The changes make it a legal obligation for us to share your information. The proposed benefits of sharing identifiable data are to help plan and monitor effective patient services especially where you may receive care from several different organisations.

We already share different types of information about our patients, such as,

- for direct care with e.g. hospital consultants, health visitors, midwives or district nurses
- patient identifiable information for public health e.g. for childhood immunisations, retinal screening and cervical smears
- with your explicit consent to organisations outside the NHS e.g. solicitors and insurance companies
- limited information for protection e.g. to social services for child protection
- under some laws to protect patients or others e.g. court orders
- anonymous information that cannot identify you e.g. medical research and clinical audit

Some information at a local level is used to help design health services or undertake clinical audit and some at national level to allow the NHS to build a picture of the nation's health.

The change that is about to take place under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 allows the Health & Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) to extract personal and identifiable data about all patients in England. This will be linked with other information from hospitals, mental health trusts etc to build a complete record about you.

Access to this information will be strictly controlled by the HSCIC although they plan to share it with other organisations both NHS and private.

The Practice will not be able to object to this information being released.

What do I need to do?

If you are happy for NHS England to direct the HSCIC to extract, store and manage your data you need do nothing. The information will automatically be taken from our computer system.

If you do not want your information to be taken you must tell us and we are able to block the upload of your identifiable and personal information.

If you are happy for your data to be used by HSCIC for anonymised reports but not shared with other agencies or companies in identifiable format, let us know so that we can add an alert to your record.

Your access to health care and the care that you receive from this Surgery will not be affected by your decision.

For more information go to www.nhs.uk/care.data or www.hscic.gov.uk