



# The CARE Data Programme

## **Introduction**

Information about you and the care you receive is shared, in a secure system, by healthcare staff to support your treatment and care.

It is important that the NHS can use this information to plan and improve services for all patients. The NHS would like to link information from all the different places where you receive care, such as your GP, hospital and community service, to help provide a full picture. This will allow them to compare the care you received in one area against the care you received in another, so they can see what has worked best.

Information such as your postcode, Date of Birth and NHS number, but not your name, will be used to link your records in a secure system held by the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC), so your identity is protected.

Information which does not reveal your identity can then be used by others, such as researchers and those planning health services, to make sure the NHS provides the best care possible for everyone.

How your information is used and shared is controlled by law and strict rules are in place to protect your privacy.

We need to make sure that you know this is happening and the choices you have.

## **Benefits of sharing information.**

Sharing information can help improve understanding, locally and nationally, of the most important health needs and the quality of the treatment and care provided by local health services. It may also help researchers by supporting studies that identify patterns in diseases, responses to different treatments and potential solutions.

Information will also help to:

- find more effective ways of preventing, treating and managing illnesses;
- guide local decisions about changes that are needed to respond to the needs of local patients;
- support public health by anticipating risks of particular diseases and conditions, and help us to take action to prevent problems;
- improve the public's understanding of the outcomes of care, giving them confidence in health and care services; and
- guide decisions about how to manage NHS resources fairly so that they can best support the treatment and management of illness for the benefit of patients.

## **What will be done with the Information?**

Only the minimum amount of information needed will go to help the NHS improve patient care and the services provided.

The NHS has developed a thorough process that must be followed before any information can be shared. Sometimes information will be released to approved researchers, if this is allowed under the strict rules in place to protect your privacy. The NHS is very careful with the information and follows strict rules about how it is stored and used.

The NHS will make sure that the way we use information is in line with the law, national guidance and best practice. Reports that we publish will never identify a particular person.

## **Do I have a choice?**

Yes. You have the right to prevent confidential information about you from being shared or used for any purpose other than providing your care, except in special circumstances. If you do not want information that identifies you to be shared outside your GP practice, complete the Opt-Out form over leaf and hand in to the Practice. This will prevent your confidential information being used other than where necessary by law, (for example, if there is a public health emergency).

You will also be able to restrict the use of information held by other places you receive care, such as hospitals and community services.

Your choice will not affect the care you receive

**Where can I get more information?**

Leaflets in other languages and formats are available from the NHS website. For more information, including a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs), please go to the website at [www.nhs.uk/caredata](http://www.nhs.uk/caredata)  
You can also get further information from the website at [www.hscic.gov.uk](http://www.hscic.gov.uk)

**Do I need to do anything?**

If you are happy for your information to be shared you do not need to do anything. There is no form to fill in and nothing to sign and you can change your mind at any time.  
If you want to restrict the use of your information please complete the form below and post or hand into the Oakwood Surgery.

**Care Data OPT-OUT FORM**

I request my GP take all reasonable actions to limit the secondary use of my confidential personal information as follows. *(Please tick all boxes that apply).*

**1. To stop your Patient Identifiable data leaving Oakwood Surgery.**

I dissent from secondary use of GP patient identifiable data.

**2. To stop all your patient Identifiable data from all sources including Hospitals leaving the HSCIC.**

I dissent from disclosure of personal confidential data by the Health and Social Care Information Centre.

A. Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Surname / Family name \_\_\_\_\_

Forename(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

B. If you are filling out this form on behalf of another person or child, their GP practice will consider this request.  
Please ensure you fill out their details in section A and your details in section B

Your name \_\_\_\_\_ Your signature \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to patient \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

For NHS use:

Actioned Yes/No \_\_\_\_\_ Initials \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_