



Your healthcare history

GPs and practice nurses collect and hold information that includes information about you, your health and the treatment and advice the doctor or nurse provide. Sometimes they record information about your home life and family if it is relevant to your health and healthcare management. Your GP practice also holds the information that is sent to them from other health services such as hospitals.



Other staff in the practice

Within the practice, the staff work as a team and divide roles and responsibilities between them. This means it is likely members of the team, other than your doctor or nurse, may see your information in the course of their work. All of our staff are trained to handle your information according to the Data Protection Act.



Health research

Occasionally your GP practice works with researchers who would like to work with patients who could help them with their research. If your GP thinks you might be suited, they will write to you and ask if you would like to participate. Your practice will never pass on your details without your consent.



How does your GP practice use your information?

Sometimes your practice shares information with other organisations that do not treat you, for example, the clinical commissioning group. Normally, it will not be possible to identify you from this information. In exceptional circumstances, for example when required by law, court order or if we have specific concerns, we may share information about you with other authorities.

Patient referrals



With your agreement, your GP may refer you to other services and healthcare providers, or they may work with other services to provide your care in the practice. Other services and health care providers will normally tell your GP surgery about the treatment they provide you.

National services



There are some national services like the National Cancer Screening Programme that collect and keep information from across the NHS. This is how the NHS knows when to contact you about services like cervical, breast or bowel cancer screening. Often you have the right to not allow these organisations to have your information. Please ask your GP or other practice staff about this.

Local Care Record



A new process has been put in place in Southwark and Lambeth called the Local Care Record. Through existing computer systems, the Local Care Record will join up care records held at your GP practice with the three main local hospital organisations: Guy's and St Thomas', King's College Hospital and South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trusts. Information is only shared when it is needed to make your care and treatment safer, easier and faster and only with those people directly involved in your care.

Do you know your rights?

You have the right to see information your GP practice holds about you. The practice may charge for this. Please ask them about this. Your GP practice will record your preferences about how you would like them to use your information and with whom it can be shared. If you would like more information about how your GP collects and holds your information, you can ask to speak to your practice's Caldicott Guardian's representative: this is the person who ensures that your practice looks after information according to the Data Protection Act.

Other NHS organisations

