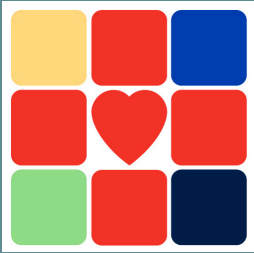


Charnock Health Newsletter



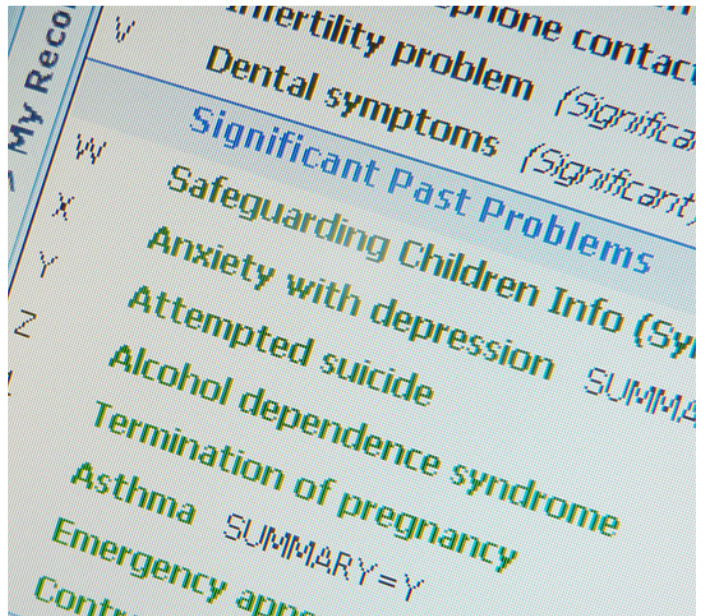
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Charnock Health Primary Care Centre

SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER



Sharing your medical records with other people

This newsletter tells you about some important changes about who can see your medical records and asks you to tell us what you think about this.

What has changed?

Until now your medical records have been kept on a computer that only your GP can see. Last year the Department of Health made your medication details and drug allergies available for other people in the NHS to view. This is called the Summary Care Record and will have happened automatically unless you wrote and refused. The next part of this process is to make your complete medical history and treatment available to other people using a secure internet link. In the past this information was only available to other people from your GP with your permission.

What are the advantages of this?

This means that if you are seen by a doctor or nurse as an emergency they can see your medical history and treat you more effectively and safely. For example, if you were injured or unconscious in casualty the doctors would have more accurate information available. They would know if you had any other health problems such as diabetes, high blood pressure or heart disease. Dentists and pharmacists would also be able to see if you have health problems that might be important for them to know about before they advised or treated you. Anyone needing to see your records would have to log on to their computer using a chip and pin card which would then connect them to a secure Department of Health computer server storing your records. They would also have to ask you for permission when they do this, unless you were too ill to give your consent.

...and the disadvantages?

Your healthcare record would contain your complete past history. This might contain sensitive information about issues such as mental health problems, sexual difficulties and infections or termination of pregnancy. You might not feel happy about someone other than your family doctor seeing this information, particularly if these things had happened many years ago. Chip and pin cards would be issued not only to doctors and nurses but also to pharmacies, dentists, NHS call handlers and social services staff involved in NHS care. Your complete record would be visible to anyone with a card, once you had agreed to let them open it.

There have been worries in the past about how secure information is on government computer databases. Many experts still have concerns about security issues with records being shared over the internet. Government have also talked about releasing medical information stored in this way to drug companies to help them develop new drugs. Insurance companies are also interested in using this information.

How can I find out more about this?

There is more information about this on our practice website under "summary care record" There is also information available on the Health and Social Care website systems.hscic.gov.uk/scr

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Important!

Please get in touch and tell us what you think about sharing your records in this way. We need to know your views as soon as possible.

How to make your views known about record sharing

Either write to us or send an email. Although all information will be strictly confidential please be sure to give us your name and your date of birth so we can reply to you. We will be reporting to the local Clinical Commissioning Group to let them know what our patients think about sharing their medical records with other people. If you are happy to let your records be uploaded then let us know. If you feel strongly that you do not want to share your records in this way we can put a note on your records stating this if you would like us to.

Please write to Julie Coakley, Practice Manager, Charnock Health, White Lane, Sheffield S12 3GH or email her at SHECCG.CharnockHC@nhs.net