The NHS will ensure it uses information in line with the law and the NHS confidentiality code of practice, the NHS Constitution and other national guidance and best practice.

Reports that are published will never identify a particular person.

Do I have a choice?

Yes. If you do not want information that identifies you from being shared please tell us and we will make a note of this in your medical record. 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 where you receive care eg Hospitals or Treatment Centres. This will not affect the care you receive.

Do I need to do anything?

If you are happy for your information to be shared to help improve services, 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 have concerns, or wish to register with the practice that you are not happy for your records to be shared please ask Reception for a form to advise us of your wishes.

Will anyone contact me?

The NHS will occasionally release information to approved researchers where this is allowed under strict conditions. For most research, patients do not need to be contacted, but in some cases they do. If a researcher needs to contact you, they will only do this with the approval of your own doctor, who will contact you for your permission.

**Patient Information Leaflet**

**How Information in your Medical Records will be used to improve health care.**

**Please read this leaflet carefully.**

**Introduction**

In future, where the NHS deems it appropriate, it will be extracting data from patients’ computerised notes to collate information which they hope will help to improve the services offered and the care provided to everyone.

In order to plan and improve care for all patients it is important that the NHS links information from the different places where patients receive care to help them provide a full picture

Although the type of information shared, and how it is shared will be controlled by law and strict confidentiality rules, as a practice we will have no choice but to allow this extraction from our clinical systems.

The information extracted will be stored on computers outside the practice.

Your postcode or NHS number, rather than your name, will be used to link your records in a secure system, so your identity will be protected.

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

It is important 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 so that they can best support the treatment and management of illness for the benefit of patients.

What will the NHS do with the information?

Only the minimum amount of information needed to help improve patient care and the services will be extracted.

The NHS has developed a thorough process that must be followed before any information can be shared and will follow strict rules about how it is stored and used.