

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT RECORD SHARING-during Covid-19 pandemic

To help the NHS to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, NHSX and NHS Digital are improving the access that doctors, nurses and other authorised health and care professionals have to medical records and information. This will help them to more safely treat and advise patients who are not attending their usual GP practice or who have called NHS 111

What do these changes mean for patients?

The changes will help improve patient care by giving authorised clinical staff in general practice, NHS 111 and in other care settings providing direct care faster access to the GP Record and the Additional Information in patient's Summary Care Records during the coronavirus pandemic period.

Access to this information will help professional staff to provide tailored clinical care to that patient - including those patients with long term medical conditions - and support clinical assessment and decision making.

Patients can be reassured that:

- Summary Care Records and GP Records accessed in this way will only be used to support individual direct patient care
- Healthcare professionals must only access a Summary Care Record where they have the patient's permission to do so or in an emergency when a patient is unable to give consent.
- Patients can be reassured that if they have expressed a consent preference with regard to their Summary Care Record, to either opt-out or have a Core Summary Care Record only, their preference will continue to be respected and applied.
- Patients can be assured that if they have opted out of their practice sharing their GP record, this decision will be respected and it will not be shared via the GP Connect service.

The only significant change is that those patients who have a current SCR consent preference set to 'Implied consent for Core Summary Care Record Dataset upload' will now have both the Core and Additional Information uploaded by default.

All the remaining SCR consent preference options will continue to function as previously - this includes where the patient has expressed a preference not to include Additional Information or has opted out of having a SCR at all.

Patients can change their preferences to opt-out of, or opt back into, having their information shared should they wish to-**JUST SPEAK WITH THE SURGERY STAFF AND OBTAIN A SHARED INFORMATION CONSENT FORM.**

Thank you.

*Patients should be aware that this data sharing ensures health and care professionals meet their **legal obligations set out in the Notice issued on 20th March 2020 under Regulation 3(4) of the Health Service Control of Patient Information Regulations 2002** which "requires the processing and sharing of confidential patient information amongst health organisations and other bodies engaged in disease surveillance for the purposes of research, protecting public health, providing healthcare services to the public and monitoring and managing the Covid-19 outbreak and incidents of exposure."*