



How we use your information

We keep information about you, such as your name and address, the treatments you receive and who saw you, on both paper and computer records.

- Caring, by monitoring the quality of care provided
- Sharing, to give you good care and treatment
- Working, to plan new services
- Reassuring, to check services are efficient and effective

Keep us up to date

Out of date or wrong information could lead to mistakes being made with your care. It is important that we have up to date information about you. If any of your circumstances change, please tell us the next time you see us. On occasion, we will ask you to confirm your details so we have up to date records. If you are unable to provide up to date details, we may ask people who accompany you, such as your relatives.

More information

Further details are available from www.ig.nhs.uk

If you have any concerns, speak to the person in charge of your care or contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service for your area.

- Bristol: 0117 900 3433
- Gloucestershire: 08000 151 548
- South Gloucestershire: 0800 073 0907
- North Somerset: 0800 923 2222
- BANES: 01225 831717
- Wiltshire: 0800 389 7671
- Swindon: 01793 708736

How we handle your information

You are entitled to see the information held in your health record. If you wish to see a copy, please ask the person in charge of your care, or write to the records manager of the organisation providing your care.

All about you

Caring

Your health record contain facts about your health, including:

- Appointments
- Treatments and test results
- The professional opinions of the staff caring for you.

These are used by staff to ensure they can offer you good care and treatment. Your records will only be used by staff treating you or administration staff who may book your appointments.

Sharing

When you require care it is often the case that several organisations will be involved in providing it. To enable this to happen smoothly, information about you is shared between the staff in the organisations caring for you. The NHS works with many partner agencies such as Social Services, Education, Housing and the voluntary sector. Staff should discuss with you, what information they are sharing and why. You can always ask if you have any concerns.

Sometimes it may be very important for your information to be shared in order to prevent you or someone else coming to harm. We only share information in such situations where we have either spoken to you, or where it is vital to do so quickly, and we are unable to talk to you.

There are also a few laws that require the NHS to share information such as child protection cases, controlling infectious disease and protecting vulnerable individuals.

Working

In addition to providing the care you need, the NHS uses information for a number of other important activities such as research, quality monitoring and developing services.

When information is used for these activities we will remove your name and address. We may use a reference number instead so you are not identified.

You may be invited to participate in research studies. All research is approved by a 'Research Ethics

Committee' before it can start and there are detailed checks over how patient information will be handled. Details about your health will not be passed to researchers unless you choose to take part.



Reassuring

All staff receive training and regular updates about how to handle your information. They are all bound by a legal duty to keep information confidential.

Information about you stored on any media is subject to very strict security controls. Regular security audits of computer systems, and procedures to collect and store data, take place to ensure that everything is working well.