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**SHARING YOUR MEDICAL RECORDS**

There has been a lot of information given to the public recently about medical records being shared outside of your GP practice. There are three data sharing programmes that the Wellbrook Medical Centre is asking patients about and this leaflet will tell you the differences between them and what the information is used for.

There is a section at the back of the leaflet that you can fill in if you wish to opt out of any, or all, of the programmes.

**Summary Care Record**

This was the first programme that shared data from your GP medical record with other NHS organisations. The Wellbrook Medical Centre automatically creates a Summary Care Record for each patient. This record contains three pieces of information about you – any allergies you have, any sensitivities to medications you have, and any current medication you are taking.

The Summary Care Record can then be accessed, with your permission, by ‘Out of Hours’ services across the country (such as A&E departments or Walk In Centres) so that they have a small amount of important information about you in an emergency. They will always ask your permission to view your Summary Care Record unless there are extenuating circumstances (e.g. you are unconscious and they feel there may be vital information that they need access to). Access to all Summary Care Records is recorded and any information accessed without your consent would be audited to ensure it was appropriate.

If you would like to object to your information being shared as part of the Summary Care Record programme then please complete the relevant section of the form on the back of this leaflet.

**Care.data**

This is the programme that has caused the most media coverage and concern over the past few weeks. An information leaflet titled “Better Information means Better Care” was sent to every household explaining how your information is going to be used.

The care.data scheme automatically uploads data from your GP medical record to The Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC). Your data is matched with data uploaded by other NHS providers such as hospitals and community services. This then creates one ‘joined-up’ record per patient.

This information is invaluable for monitoring and planning appropriate care and conducting research. By using information about the care you have received, those involved in providing health and care services can see how well different services are performing and where improvements need to be made. They hope that it will provide:

* better understand and improve the health of the nation;
* find ways of targeting, preventing, treating and managing illness and disease; and
* better anticipate future need for services and plan and commission accordingly.

Confidentiality is paramount and if this information is used, it will **not** contain information that identifies individuals. The type of information shared, and how it is shared, is controlled by law and strict confidentiality rules.

For the avoidance of doubt:

* Data will not be made available for the purposes of selling or administering any kind of [insurance](http://www.england.nhs.uk/2014/01/20/guardian-story/)
* Data will not be shared or used for [marketing](http://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/cd-patient-faqs.pdf) purposes
* NHS England and the HSCIC will not [profit](http://www.england.nhs.uk/2014/01/20/guardian-story/) from providing data to outside organisations

Information can be released in three ways:

* Anonymised information: this information does not identify any individuals, nor small numbers of patients with rare characteristics or diseases. Anonymous information may be published in public reports produced by the HSCIC.
* Potentially identifiable information: this is information about individual patients but it does not include any identifiers (i.e. there are no personal details such as your date of birth and postcode included). The HSCIC would never publish this type of information because there is a risk that you might be identified. For example, if you were the only person in an area who had a rare disease then someone may work out that it was you even though your identifiers were not included. As a result, there are strict controls about how to release potentially identifiable information. For example, this type of information would only ever be released to approved organisations for approved purposes, and there must be a legal contract in place with penalties for any misuse of the information.
* Identifiable information: information that identifies you can only be disclosed where you have given your explicit consent (such as where you have agreed to participate in a research study) or there is a legal basis for doing so.

If you still have questions or concerns, you can call the care.data patient information line on 0300 456 3531.

If you would like to object to your information being shared as part of the care.data programme then please complete the relevant section of the form on the back of this leaflet.

There are two types of information sharing you can object to:

* You can object to information containing data that identifies you from leaving your GP practice. This type of objection will prevent the identifiable information held in your GP record from being sent to HSCIC’s secure environment. It will also prevent researchers who have gained legal approval from receiving your health information.
* Information from other places where you receive care, such as hospitals and community services, is collected nationally by HSCIC. The HSCIC only releases this information in identifiable form where there is legal approval for doing so such as for medical research.

**ResearchOne**

We use a clinical system called SystmOne to record all of your medical information. This clinical system supplies non-identifiable data to a large database called ResearchOne. ResearchOne is an ethically approved, not-for-profit database with the potential to use anonymous data from millions of patient records to:

* Contribute to national clinical research
* Support advancements in clinical understanding
* Facilitate system improvements

If you would like to object to your information being shared as part of the ResearchOne programme then please complete the relevant section of the form on the back of this leaflet.

**Opt Out Form**

Before completing and signing this form please make sure that you are fully aware of the different data sharing programmes and that you understand what you are opting out of. If you require any more information and are unsure of where to find it, please ask a member of staff at the practice who will be happy to help you.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Patient Name |  |
| Date of Birth |  |
| Address |  |
|  |
|  |
| Name  (if completing on behalf of someone else) |  |
| Relationship to patient |  |

Please tick the boxes of the data sharing programme/s you wish to **opt out** of:

Summary Care Record

Care.data - information containing data that identifies you from leaving your GP practice

Care.data - Information from other places where you receive care, such as hospitals and community services

ResearchOne

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Signature |  |
| Date |  |

**Please return this opt out form to Wellbrook Medical Centre**