

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO HOW WE HANDLE YOUR PERSONAL DATA

Under new powers of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 an organisation called the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) can, under certain circumstances, request personal confidential data from GP practices. The data to be extracted includes referrals, NHS prescriptions and other coded clinical data. Identifiers (Date of Birth, Postcode, NHS number and Gender) are required by HSCIC to link GP data with data from other care settings.

Broadly, the information will be used by NHS commissioners so that they can better design integrated services by linking GP data with information from other health and social care settings. In addition, HSCIC will allow a flow of information in an anonymised, pseudonymised or aggregated form to accredited third parties, for example to approved researchers or commissioners.

If you are happy for your information to be shared 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.

The Practice has **no choice** but to allow HSCIC to extract this information however patients can instruct their Practice to stop the transfer of their individual data, except in special circumstances such as a public health emergency.

You have the choice to opt out of the transfer of your information on two levels – (1) from leaving the Practice and (2) from leaving the HSCIC.

An opt out form is available from reception. Your choice will not affect the care you receive.

For further information, please visit: www.nhs.uk/caredata