

How the NHS uses and protects your health records



Your doctor (hospital doctor and GP) and the team of health professionals caring for you, keep records about your health and any treatment or care you receive from the NHS.

Your records are private and you have the right to expect that they are kept secure and confidential. These records are then used to guide and manage the care you receive.



Different organisations within the NHS sometimes have to share information about you, for example when you are referred from one service to another. The NHS and local council services are also working more closely together to ensure you receive the most appropriate care, and so may also need to share your information. This will only be done with your consent and knowledge and you have the right to ask for this information not to be shared.



Your information may be used for the purposes of managing the NHS, education, training and medical research. Wherever possible the information will not identify you and you have the right to opt out of your information being used in this way.



There are strict rules about keeping records, on a computer as well as on paper, so that they remain secure. Only authorised people are able to get access to your records.

A patient information leaflet is available that gives you more details about who may see your personal information, what steps you can take to limit the sharing of your information and how to apply to see your medical record.