

Do I have a choice?

Yes. You have the right to prevent confidential information about you from being shared or used for any purpose other than providing your care, except in special circumstances. If you do not want information that identifies you to be shared outside your GP practice, ask your practice to make a note of this in your medical record. This will prevent your confidential information being used other than where necessary by law, (for example, if there is a public health emergency).

You will also be able to restrict the use of information held by other places you receive care, such as hospitals and community services. You should let your GP know if you want to restrict the use of this information.

Your choice will not affect the care you receive.

Do I need to do anything?

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.

If you have concerns or are not happy for your information to be shared, speak to your GP practice.

Where can I get more information?

Leaflets in other languages and formats are available from our website.

For more information, including a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs), please go to the website at www.nhs.uk/caredata.

You can also get further information from the website at www.hscic.gov.uk.

Or you can speak to staff at your GP practice.

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How information
about you helps
us to **provide**
better care



Introduction

Information about you and the care you receive is shared, in a secure system, by healthcare staff to support your treatment and care.

It is important that we, the NHS, can use this information to plan and improve services for all patients. We would like to link information from all the different places where you receive care, such as your GP, hospital and community service, to help us provide a full picture. This will allow us to compare the care you received in one area against the care you received in another, so we can see what has worked best.

Information such as your postcode and NHS number, but not your name, will be used to link your records in a secure system, so your identity is protected. Information which does not reveal your identity can then be used by others, such as researchers and those planning health services, to make sure we provide the best care possible for everyone.

How your information is used and shared is controlled by law and strict rules are in place to protect your privacy.

We need to make sure that you know this is happening and the choices you have.

Please take time to read this leaflet. You need to make a choice.

Benefits of sharing information

Sharing information can help improve understanding, locally and nationally, of the most important health needs and the quality of the treatment and care provided by local health services. It may also help researchers by supporting studies that identify patterns in diseases, responses to different treatments and potential solutions.

Information will also help to:

- find more effective ways of preventing, treating and managing illnesses;
- guide local decisions about changes that are needed to respond to the needs of local patients;
- support public health by anticipating risks of particular diseases and conditions, and help us to take action to prevent problems;
- improve the public's understanding of the outcomes of care, giving them confidence in health and care services; and
- guide decisions about how to manage NHS resources fairly so that they can best support the treatment and management of illness for the benefit of patients.

What will we do with the information?

We will only use the minimum amount of information we need to help us improve patient care and the services we provide.

We have developed a thorough process that must be followed before any information can be shared. We sometimes release information to approved researchers, if this is allowed under the strict rules in place to protect your privacy. We are very careful with the information and we follow strict rules about how it is stored and used.

We will make sure that the way we use information is in line with the law, national guidance and best practice. Reports that we publish will never identify a particular person.

This leaflet has been produced by:

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We will continue to let you know about new ways of working with you to help you to stay well.

We will review our notices regularly (at least every 2 years), taking into account your feedback.



To find out more about the NHS Constitution and what it says about NHS data privacy commitments, please visit www.england.nhs.uk/2013/03/26/nhs-constitution.

To find out more about the Data Protection Act, the purposes for which we collect and use information, to receive independent advice or make a complaint about the health information issues, please visit www.ico.org.uk/ or call 0303 123 1113

This notice has been reviewed by the Lewisham CCG Patient Engagement Officer, the Lewisham CCG Caldicott Guardian, the Lewisham CCG Designate Nurse for Safeguarding Adults and Lewisham CCG Patient Representatives.

The contents of this notice will be reviewed in August 2015 or in the event of any significant change to the way that Lewisham healthcare services and social care services work together.



Lewisham
Clinical Commissioning Group



Helping
you to
stay well

 Better health, best care
for Lewisham people

Who are we?

NHS Lewisham Clinical Commissioning Group is responsible for planning, buying and monitoring NHS services and for listening to local patients. It is made up of all GP practices in Lewisham.

We work with other GPs, local hospitals, A&E, Walk-In Centres, SELDOC, community services and social care services to ensure that local people get the best healthcare possible. Our priority is to make these services work better together, to help you to stay well.

Why have we produced this leaflet?

We want to explain that we might need to use your health information with other care providers to help you to stay well.

We want you to know what we are doing to improve your care and what you can reasonably expect regarding your health information.



What do we want to do?

We are making changes to the way we collect, use and share your information.

The changes we are making will help different care professionals to use the health information that you provide at the different places you receive care.

We want to help you to stay as well as you can.

What sort of health information do we mean?

Healthcare information includes your name, age, date of birth, NHS number, postcode and clinical information about your symptoms and the care you have received already.

Only those care professionals who can help you to stay well can access your health information, and only if your GP feels it is necessary.

What difference can these changes make to you?

By identifying your needs early, your GP can act upon them by agreeing a Care Plan with you.

A Care Plan is a way of achieving the goals you agree with your GP, in order to stay well.

Care services working better together can help you to stay at home as much as possible.

Does my healthcare information need to be managed in this way?

No. You can choose not to have your healthcare information managed in this way.

However, this may be the best way to keep you well. Your GP will talk to you about it if she or he thinks your healthcare can be improved in this way.

How secure is my health information?

Protecting your healthcare information is a top priority for GP practices and all other healthcare and social care services.

Your healthcare information will only be available to those care providers who are helping you to stay well.

If you would like further information please talk to your GP in the first instance.

We are listening to you.

