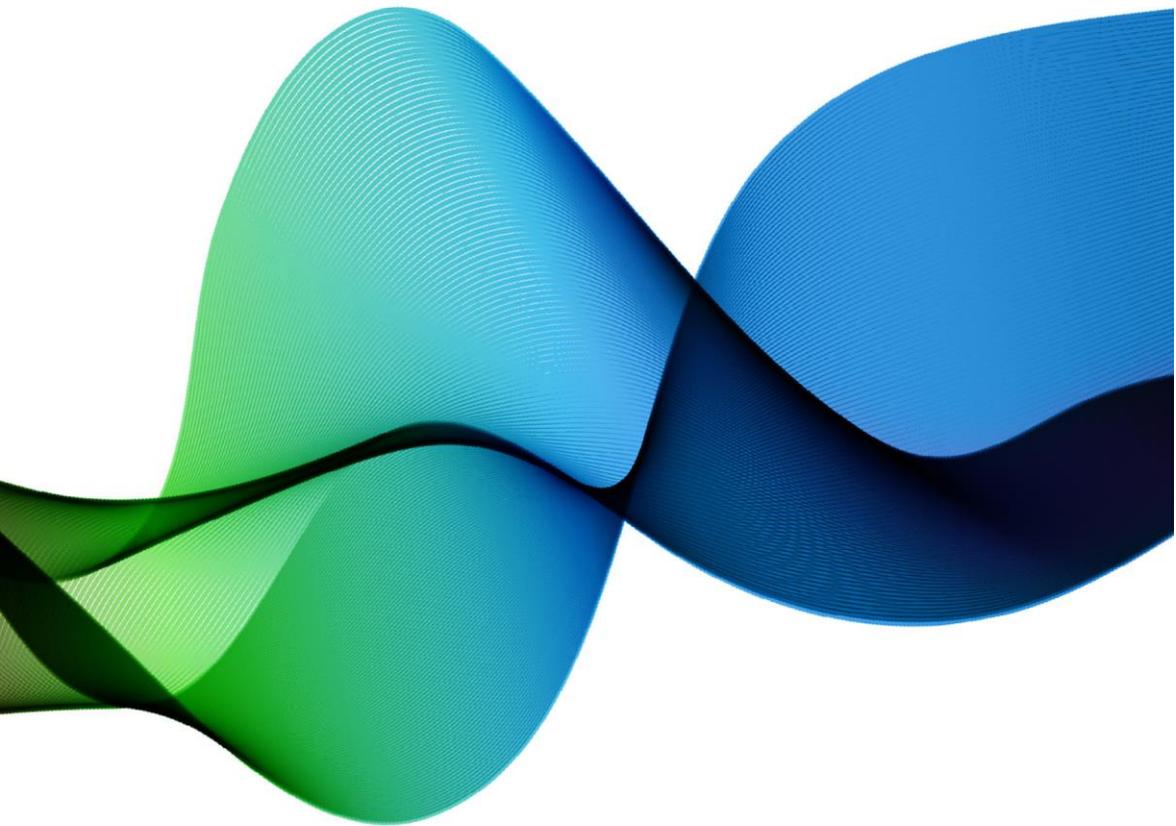


Better information means better care



**This leaflet contains important information
about your health records.**

You, and everyone who lives with you, should read this leaflet carefully. It is important that everyone knows how we share, protect and use information about their health.

You have a choice.

Introduction

We want to improve the quality of care and health services for all. By using information about the care you have received, those involved in providing care and health services can see how well they are doing, and where improvements need to be made.

NHS organisations share information about the care you receive with those who plan health and social care services, as well as with approved researchers and organisations outside the NHS, if this will benefit patient care. As a patient, you may receive care and treatment from a number of places such as your GP practice, hospitals and community

services. By bringing this information together from

all the different places, we can compare the care provided in one area with the care provided in another, so we can see what worked best.

We will use information such as your postcode and NHS number to link your records from these different places. Records are linked in a secure system so your identity is protected. Details that could identify you will be removed before your information is made available to others, such as those planning NHS services and approved researchers.

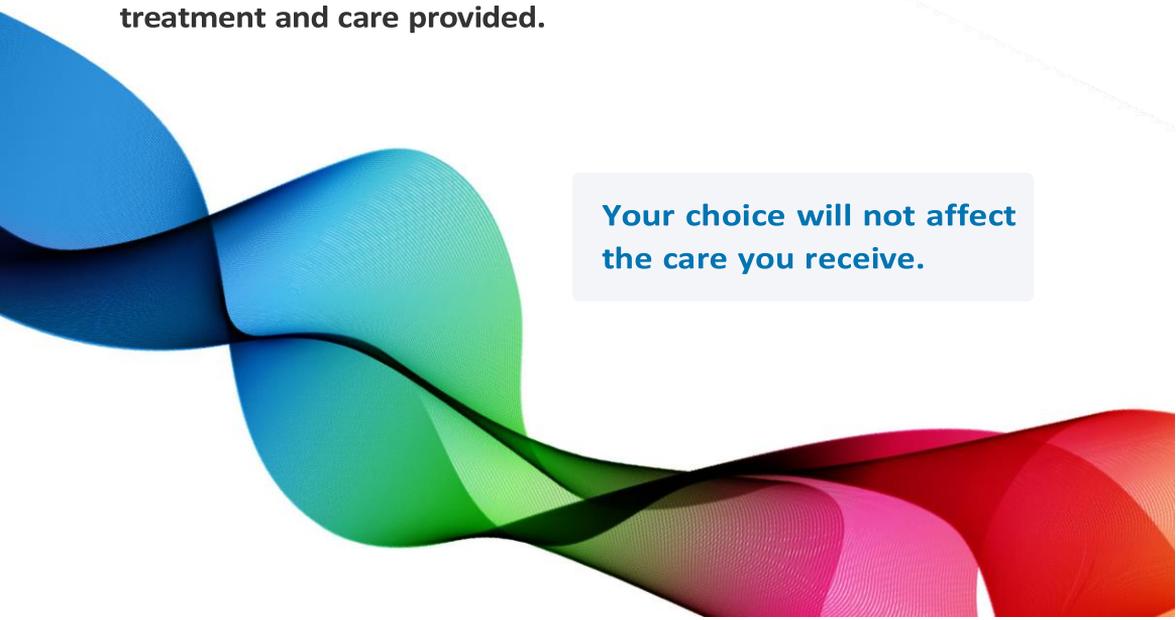
We sometimes release confidential information to approved researchers, if this is allowed by law and meets the strict rules that are in place to protect your privacy.

What are the **benefits** of sharing my information?

Sharing information about the care you have received helps us understand the health needs of everyone and the quality of the treatment and care provided.

It also helps researchers by supporting studies that identify patterns in diseases, responses to different treatments, and the effectiveness of different services.

Your choice will not affect the care you receive.



Information will also help us to:

- find more effective ways of preventing, treating and managing illnesses
 - make sure that any changes or improvements to services reflect the needs of local patients
 - understand who is most at risk of particular diseases and conditions, so those who plan care can provide preventative services
 - improve your understanding of the outcomes of care, giving you greater confidence in health and social care services
 - guide decisions about how to manage NHS resources so that they can best support the treatment and care of all patients
 - identify who could be at risk of a condition or would benefit from a particular treatment
 - make sure that NHS organisations receive the correct payments for the services they provide.
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What will we do with the information?

We will only use the minimum information needed to improve patient care and services.

We are very careful with the information and we follow strict rules about how it is stored and used, and have a thorough process that must

be followed before any information can be shared.

When we share information we will make sure we do so in line with the law, national guidance and best practice.

Information that we publish will never identify a particular person.

What choice do I have?

We have explained how about you from being useful information about shared or used for any you is, and the steps that purpose other than we take to protect your providing your care (except in privacy. However, you special circumstances allowed may want to prevent by law, such as when there is confidential information a public-health emergency).

continued

continue overleaf

If you do not want information prevent the information from that identifies you to be shared those places being

shared. outside your GP practice, The practice will make a please ask the practice to make separate note of this in your a note of this in your medical medical record.

record. This note will prevent

your confidential information You may have already asked from being used other than in for information about you not special circumstances. to be shared with others, such as your medical record being Information from other places shared for your care. You still where you receive care, such need to let your GP practice as hospitals and community know if you have concerns services, is collected nationally. about your information being You should also let your GP shared for the purposes practice know if you want to described in this leaflet.

Do I need to do anything?

If you are happy for your If you have any questions or **information to be shared** are not happy for information **you do not need to do** about you to be shared, **speaking anything. There is no form** to your GP practice. **to fill in and nothing to sign. And you can change your mind at any time.**

Where can I get more information?

Visit the NHS Choices website at:

www.nhs.uk/caredata



for more information, a list of common questions, or another format of this leaflet.

Speak to staff at your GP practice. Call our



dedicated patient information line on:



0300 456 3531

This line also offers translation and text phone services.

More details about how we look after confidential information and how it may be used can be found on the website at:

www.hscic.gov.uk/patientconf