

# **DATA SHARING CONSENT / DISSENT**

Dear Patient

This letter is trying to explain very important issues around the sharing of the data we record within your medical records. It is important that you read this letter and return the attached Opt in/Opt out form to us as soon as possible.

## **1. HSCIC data sharing**

You will have received a leaflet about the upload and use of patient identifiable data to the Health & social Care information Centre (HSCIC) in the post recently. This leaflet explains that from April onwards the HSCIC will extract patient identifiable data from us to match it with hospital care data and use it for commissioning and research and make it also available to private enterprises. We as a practice are being forced to participate in this scheme and cannot withhold information unless you opt out.

IF YOU DO NOT WISH YOUR DATA TO BE UPLOADED, YOU HAVE TO LET US KNOW BY COMPLETING PART 1 OF THE ATTACHED FORM. WE THEN ADD THE FOLLOWING ENTRIES TO YOUR RECORD WHICH WILL PREVENT THE UPLOAD.

'Dissent from disclosure of personal confidential data by HSCIC' and  
'Dissent from secondary use of GP patient identifiable data'.

Adding these codes should safeguard your confidentiality full as we have been advised that HSCIC is not allowed to process data coded in this way.

Unfortunately, the leaflet sent out by HSCIC is very confusing and does only cover record sharing with HSCIC and so called 'secondary use' – which usually means research units and private enterprises.

**There are 2 further areas of record sharing, which require your consent or dissent.**

## **2. GP to Secondary Care (Hospital / walk-in centres etc) record sharing**

In order for us to be able to refer you via the choose & book system, we require your consent to share your data with other providers of care. This does not mean that your entire record will be shared, but it will enable us to forward relative parts of your record to a hospital consultant who may be looking after you in future. ONLY MEDICAL/ADMINISTRATION STAFF DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN YOUR CARE WILL HAVE ACCESS TO THIS DATA.

Also, if you are being treated in a unit (another GP, walk-in centre etc) which uses the same clinical software as our practice, you can consent for us to see any letters or consultation notes that are entered there directly within your patient record at our surgery. You will be asked each time you attend another centre if you are happy for your GP to see the data that is entered or not. They are able to code individual consultations as private and not to be shared.

This sharing saves time and can have a positive impact on the level of care we can provide for you.

**We therefore would like to ask you for permission to share your data for these purposes (part 1 on the attached consent form).**

I would like to reiterate that no personal identifiable data will be sent to HSCIC from your record, even if you agree for us to share information with hospitals and other care units you might attend.

### **3. Summary Care Record**

The Summary Care Record is a different upload of patient identifiable data again. Initially only Medication, Allergies and Adverse Drug Reactions will be uploaded. This critical data can be accessed by an authorised clinicians at the urgent care settings within the NHS across England where you attend, such as:

1. GP Out Of Hours (OOH)
2. Walk-in-centres (WIC)
3. Acute pharmacy
4. A&E
5. Ambulance Services

The viewing clinician / organisation will if possible seek permission from you prior to accessing your Summary Care Record. ("Can I View / Retrieve your SCR").

The Summary Care Record may help in ensuring that patients' receive safer and quality care in the urgent or emergency situation when other sources of information are not available i.e. the GP practice is closed / Patient travelling across England / Patient is unconscious.

Unfortunately, there is no guarantee given that in future more data than just the essentials will be uploaded once a record has been created.

No data is uploaded from our practice to the Summary Care Record at present.

Part 3 of the attached consent form relates to the Summary Care Record.

Further Information:

<http://systems.hscic.gov.uk/scr>

<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/patientconf>

<http://www.pulsetoday.co.uk/your-practice/practice-topics/it/over-40-of-gps-intend-to-opt-themselves-out-of-caredata-scheme/20005648.article>

or search the internet for 'care data', 'Summary Care Record' or 'NHS data sharing'.

We understand that this whole area of data sharing and upload is very confusing to patients and believe that the Department of Health is not doing enough to ensure patients fully understand all issues surrounding consent.

**We will be grateful if could complete, date and sign the attached consent form and then return it to us as soon as practically possible.**

We are sorry for all the confusion, but this has unfortunately been caused by the HSCIC and the Department of Health.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me directly. You can also e-mail the surgery with any concerns via the 'contact us' link on our website [www.highgrovesurgery.co.uk](http://www.highgrovesurgery.co.uk).

Kind regards

HIGHGROVE SURGERY