

## **How sharing information about you helps provide better care.**

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 the NHS can use information to plan and improve services for all patients. This can be done by linking information from all the different places where you receive care. This allows the care received in one area to be compared with the care received in another area.

Information such as 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 the best possible care is provided for everyone.

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

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.

You have the right to prevent confidential information about you from being shared or used for any other purpose other than providing you care, except in special circumstances.

If you are happy for your information to be shared outside this practice you need do nothing. If you are unhappy about your information being shared contact the surgery, we will make a note on your medical record and this will prevent your confidential information being used other than where necessary by law.

There are leaflets and frequently asked questions available at the surgery if required