

Covid-19 and your information - Updated on 22nd May 2020

This notice describes how we may use your information to protect you and others during the Covid-19 outbreak. It supplements our main Privacy Notice which is available on our website or in the Waiting Room at Southernhay House Surgery.

NHS Digital will be collecting data from GP Practices in connection with COVID-19, the privacy notice for this can be found on the [NHS Digital website](#).

The health and social care system is facing significant pressures due to the Covid-19 outbreak. Health and care information is essential to deliver care to individuals, to support health and social care services and to protect public health. Information will also be vital in researching, monitoring, tracking and managing the outbreak. In the current emergency it has become even more important to share health and care information across relevant organisations.

Existing law which allows confidential patient information to be used and shared appropriately and lawfully in a public health emergency is being used during this outbreak. Using this law the Secretary of State has required NHS Digital; NHS England and Improvement; Arms Length Bodies (such as Public Health England); local authorities; health organisations and GPs to share confidential patient information to respond to the Covid-19 outbreak. Any information used or shared during the Covid-19 outbreak will be limited to the period of the outbreak unless there is another legal basis to use the data. Further information is available on gov.uk [here](#) and some FAQs on this law are available [here](#).

During this period of emergency, opt-outs will not generally apply to the data used to support the Covid-19 outbreak, due to the public interest in sharing information. This includes [National Data Opt-outs](#). However in relation to the Summary Care Record, existing choices will be respected. Where data is used and shared under these laws your right to have personal data erased will also not apply. It may also take us longer to respond to Subject Access requests, Freedom of Information requests and new opt-out requests whilst we focus our efforts on responding to the outbreak.

In order to look after your health and care needs we may share your confidential patient information including health and care records with clinical and non-clinical staff in other health and care providers, for example neighbouring GP practices, hospitals and NHS 111. We may also use the details we have to send public health messages to you, either by phone, text or email.

During this period of emergency we may offer you a consultation via telephone or video- conferencing. By accepting the invitation and entering the consultation you are consenting to this. Your personal/confidential patient information will be safeguarded in the same way it would with any other consultation.

We will also be required to share personal/confidential patient information with health and care organisations and other bodies engaged in disease surveillance for the purposes of protecting public health, providing healthcare services to the public and monitoring and managing the outbreak. Further information about how health and

care data is being used and shared by other NHS and social care organisations in a variety of ways to support the Covid-19 response is [here](#).

The Practice may collect, hold and share information about you in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic in order to plan and manage services, check that care is being provided and prevent COVID-19 from spreading.

Information about your COVID-19 status may be shared within the NHS and with other partners involved in your care and treatment, along with:

- NHS England,
- NHS Digital,
- Public Health England,
- CCG,
- The Department of Health,
- Other Government Departments where it's legally required, or where it is necessary for the protection of public health or management of the outbreak.

We do not need your consent or agreement to do this.

More information can be found at: <https://digital.nhs.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/data-and-services-supporting-coronavirus> and <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/notifiable-diseases-and-causative-organisms-how-to-report>

NHS England and Improvement and NHSX have developed a single, secure store to gather data from across the health and care system to inform the Covid-19 response. This includes data already collected by NHS England, NHS Improvement, Public Health England and NHS Digital. New data will include 999 call data, data about hospital occupancy and A&E capacity data as well as [data provided by patients themselves](#). All the data held in the platform is subject to strict controls that meet the requirements of data protection legislation.

TPP has temporarily re-instated the consent over-ride. The consent over-ride allows Clinicians to view all of a patient's SystemOne record, regardless of any sharing consents a patient has recorded, including events that a patient has requested to be private.

TPP have confirmed today that as of tomorrow the consent over-ride will be switched on initially for a period of 3 months (until the 30th June 2020). This will be re-reviewed by TPP as to whether this time will need to be extended. The guidance, from the National Data Guardian and the DHSC sets very specific limits to the use of the over-ride, including but not limited to:

- For the direct care, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of those with, or considered to be at risk of Covid-19 **where it is not possible to obtain consent,**

- To access the record, either where no preference has been recorded for the patient, or in **exception circumstances**, where the patient has dissented from record sharing.

In such circumstances where you tell us you're experiencing Covid-19 symptoms we may need to collect specific health data about you. Where we need to do so, we will not collect more information than we require and we will ensure that any information collected is treated with the appropriate safeguards.

We may amend this privacy notice at any time so please review it frequently. The date at the top of this page will be amended each time this notice is updated.