

Privacy Notice

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This privacy notice explains why The Old Fire Station Surgery collects information about you, how we keep it safe and confidential and how that information may be used.

Why we collect information about you

Health care professionals who provide you with care are required by law to maintain records about your health and any treatment or care you have received within any NHS organisation. These records help to provide you with the best possible healthcare.

We collect and hold data for the sole purpose of providing healthcare services to our patients. In carrying out this role we may collect information about you which helps us respond to your queries or secure specialist services. We may keep your information in written form and/or in digital form. The records may include basic details about you, such as your name and address. They may also contain more sensitive information about your health and information such as outcomes of needs assessments.

Details we collect about you

The health care professionals who provide you with care maintain records about your health and any treatment or care you have received previously or elsewhere (e.g. NHS Hospital Trust, other GP Surgery, Out of Hours GP Centre, A&E, Walk-in clinic, etc.). These records help to provide you with the best possible healthcare.

Records which we may hold about you may include the following:

Details about you, such as your address and next of kin, emergency contacts
Your home telephone number, mobile phone number, email address
Any contact the surgery has had with you, such as appointments, clinic visits, immunisations, emergency appointments,
Notes and reports about your health, treatment and care
Results of investigations, such as laboratory tests, x-rays,
Relevant information from other health professionals, relatives or those who care for you
Recording of telephone calls made between The Old Fire Station Surgery and you

How we keep your information confidential and safe

All your GP NHS health records are kept electronically or in paper format, historic records (in a locked room). Our GP records database is hosted by TPP SystmOne, who are acting as data processors, and all information is stored on their secure servers in Leeds (TPP SystmOne), is protected by appropriate security, and access is restricted to authorised personnel.

We also make sure that data processors that support us are legally and contractually bound to operate and prove security arrangements are in place where data that could or does identify a person are processed.

We only email you, regarding matters of medical care, such as appointment reminders and (if appropriate) test results.

Unless you have separately given us your explicit consent, we will not email you for non-medical matters (such as PPG questionnaires and other information).

We maintain our duty of confidentiality to you always. We will only ever use or pass on information about you if others involved in your care have a genuine need for it. We will not disclose your information to any third party without your permission unless there are exceptional circumstances (i.e. life or death situations), or where the law requires information to be passed on.

How we use information about you

Confidential patient data will be shared within the healthcare team at the practice, including nursing staff, admin staff, secretaries and receptionists, and with other healthcare professionals to whom a patient is referred. Those individuals have a professional and contractual duty of confidentiality.

Data Processors

The Old Fire Station Surgery uses data processors to perform certain administrative tasks for us, particularly where these involve large numbers of patients. They are bound by the same Data Protection Regulations as the practice.

Referrals for specific health care purposes

We sometimes provide your information to other organisations for them to provide you with medical services. We will always inform you of such a referral and you always have the right not to be referred in this way.

Data Sharing Schemes

A number of data sharing schemes are active locally, enabling healthcare professionals outside of the surgery to view information from your GP record, with your explicit consent, should that need arise. These schemes are as follows:

- The National Summary Care Record (SCR)
- The Hampshire Health Record (HHR, or CHIE)
- EMIS Web data streaming (A&E and GP hubs)
- Remote Consultations (GP out of hours)
- Adastra Web Access (GP out of hours)
- IBIS (Ambulance service)
- Symphony (Southampton General Hospital)

Mandatory disclosures of information

We are sometimes legally obliged to disclose information about patients to relevant authorities. In these circumstances the minimum identifiable information that is essential to serve that legal purpose will be disclosed.

That organisation will also have a professional and contractual duty of confidentiality. Data will be anonymised if at all possible before disclosure if this would serve the purpose for which the data is required.

Organisations that we are sometimes obliged to release information to include:

- NHS Digital (e.g. the National Diabetes Audit)
- CQC
- DVLA
- GMC
- HMRC
- NHS Counter Fraud
- Police
- The Courts
- Public Health England
- Local Authorities (Social Services)
- The Health Service Ombudsman

Permissive disclosures of information

Only with your explicit consent, The Old Fire Station Surgery can release information about you, from your GP record, to relevant organisations. These may include:

Your employer
Insurance companies
Solicitors
Local Authorities
Police

Accessing your information on other databases

The Old Fire Station Surgery can access certain medical information about you, when relevant or necessary, that is held on other databases (i.e. under the control of another data controller). These include Southampton General Hospital databases and NHS Digital's Open Exeter database. Accessing such information would only be for your direct medical care.

Research

The Old Fire Station Surgery sometimes undertakes accredited research projects. Where this involves accessing identifiable patient information, we will only do so with the explicit consent of the individual and Research Ethics Committee approval.

Your right to opt-out of sharing your information

You have the right to opt-out (or object) to ways in which your information is shared, both for direct medical care purposes (such as the national NHS data sharing schemes), i.e. *primary uses* of your information, or for purposes other than your direct medical care – so-called *secondary uses*.

Details of these purposes, and how you can opt out, are available. Please ask at reception.

Accessing your own medical information

You have the right to access your own GP record. Details of how to do this can be found on our web site.

You can also sign up to have secure online access to your electronic GP record. Again, details of how to do this can be found on our website.

Notification

The Data Protection Act 1998 requires organisations to register a notification with the Information Commissioner to describe the purposes for which they process personal and sensitive information. We are registered as a data controller and our registration can be viewed online in the public register at: [http://ico.org.uk/what we cover/register of data controllers](http://ico.org.uk/what_we_cover/register_of_data_controllers)

Complaints

If you have concerns or are unhappy about any of our services, please contact the Patient Services Lead. Details of how to complain are on our website, or available in practice.

For independent advice about data protection, privacy, and data sharing issues, you can contact:

The Information Commissioner Wycliffe House
Water Lane Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF

Phone: 08456 30 60 60

Website: www.ico.gov.uk

Further Information

If you would like any further information about primary or secondary uses of your GP record, opting out, the NHS Databases, access to your medical record, confidentiality, or about any other aspect of NHS data sharing or your medical records, then please do contact the Practice Manager.