

Privacy Notice – Direct Care (routine care and referrals)

Leadgate Surgery

This practice keeps data on you relating to who you are, where you live, what you do, your family, possibly your friends, your employers, your habits, your problems and diagnoses, the reasons you seek help, your appointment details, referrals to specialists and other healthcare providers, tests carried out here and in other places, investigations and scans, treatments and outcomes of treatments, your treatment history, the observations and opinions of other healthcare workers, within and without the NHS as well as comments and aide memoires reasonably made by healthcare professionals in this practice who are appropriately involved in your health care.

All patients who receive NHS care are registered on a national database. The database is held by NHS Digital, a national organisation which has legal responsibilities to collect NHS data.

GPs have always delegated tasks and responsibilities to others who work with them in their surgeries. On average an NHS GP has between 1,500 and 2,500 patients for whom he or she is accountable. It is not possible for the GP to provide hands on personal care for each and every one of those patients. For this reason, GPs share your care with others, predominantly within the surgery but occasionally with outside organisations.

If you require healthcare from professionals outside this practice, we will share your relevant information with them so they can provide that care. When you make contact with healthcare providers outside the practice but within the NHS, it is usual for them to send us information relating to that encounter. We will retain part or all of those reports. Normally we will receive equivalent reports of contacts you have with non-NHS services but this is not always the case.

Your consent to this sharing of data, within the practice and with those others outside the practice is assumed and is allowed by the Law (see section 4 below).

People who have access to your information will only normally have access to that which they need to fulfil their roles. For instance, admin staff will normally only see your name, address, contact details, appointment history and registration details in order to book appointments. The practice nurses will normally have access to your immunisations, treatments, important past histories, your allergies and relevant recent contacts. The GP you see or speak to will normally have access to everything in your record.

You have the right to object to our sharing your data in these circumstances but we have an overriding responsibility to do what is in your best interests. Please see below.

We are required by Articles in the General Data Protection Regulations to provide you with the information in the following 9 subsections:

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1) Data Controller	Michael Foster – Practice Manager michaelgfoster@nhs.net 01207583555
2) Data Protection Officer	Liane Cotterill North Durham CCG 0191 3898600
3) Purpose of the processing	Direct Care is care delivered to the individual alone, most of which is provided in the surgery. After a patient agrees to a referral for direct care elsewhere, such as to a specialist in a hospital, necessary and relevant information about the patient, their circumstances and their problem will need to be shared with the other healthcare workers, such as specialists, therapists, technicians etc. The information that is shared is to enable the other healthcare workers to provide the most appropriate advice, investigations, treatments, therapies and or care.
4) Lawful basis for processing under the General Data Protection Regulations	<p>The processing of personal data in the delivery of direct care and for providers’ administrative purposes in this surgery and in support of direct care elsewhere is supported under Articles 6 and 9 of the GDPR:</p> <p><i>Article 6(1)(e) ‘...necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority...’.</i></p> <p><i>Article 9(2)(h) ‘necessary for the purposes of preventative or occupational medicine for the assessment of the working capacity of the employee, medical diagnosis, the provision of health or social care or treatment or the management of health or social care systems and services...’</i></p> <p>We will also recognise your rights established under UK case law collectively known as the “Common Law Duty of Confidentiality”*</p>
5) Recipient(s) of the processed data	The data will be shared with healthcare professionals and support staff in this surgery as well as at hospitals and diagnostic and treatment centres who contribute to your personal care.
6) Right to object	You have the right to object to some or all the information being processed under Article 21 GDPR. Please contact the Data Controller or the practice. You should be aware that this is a right to raise an objection. This is not the same as having an absolute right to have your wishes granted in every circumstance.
7) Right to access and correct	You have the right to access your data that is being shared and have any inaccuracies corrected. There is no right to have accurate medical records deleted except when ordered by a court of Law.
8) Retention period	The data will be retained in line with the law and national guidance. See: https://digital.nhs.uk/article/1202/Records-Management-Code-of-Practice-for-Health-and-Social-Care-2016 Or speak to the practice.
9) Right to Complain	You have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner’s Office, you can use this link https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/

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	<p>or call their helpline</p> <p>Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate)</p> <p>Or: 01625 545 745 (national rate)</p> <p>There are National Offices for Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales, (see ICO website)</p>
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* “Common Law Duty of Confidentiality”, common law is not written out in one document like an Act of Parliament. It is a form of law based on previous court cases decided by judges; hence, it is also referred to as 'judge-made' or case law. The law is applied by reference to those previous cases, so common law is also said to be based on precedent.

The general position is that if information is given in circumstances where it is expected that a duty of confidence applies, that information cannot normally be disclosed without the information provider's consent.

In practice, this means that all patient information, whether held on paper, computer, visually or audio recorded, or held in the memory of the professional, must not normally be disclosed without the consent of the patient. It is irrelevant how old the patient is or what the state of their mental health is; the duty still applies.

Three common law circumstances making disclosure of confidential information lawful are:

- where the individual to whom the information relates has consented; or
- where disclosure is necessary to safeguard the individual(s) or is in the public interest; or
- where there is a legal duty to do so, for example a court order.