

Meadowbridge Surgery – Practice privacy notice

Introduction

At this practice, we have a legal duty to explain how we use any personal information we collect about you. This is in both electronic and paper format.

Why do we have to provide this privacy notice?

We are required to provide you with this privacy notice by law. It provides information about how we use the personal and healthcare information we collect, store and hold about you. If you have any questions about this privacy notice or are unclear about how we process or use your personal information or have any other issue regarding your personal and healthcare information, then please contact our Data Protection Officer Diane Lavery, Practice Manager.

The main things the law says we must tell you about what we do with your personal data are:

- We must let you know why we collect personal and healthcare information about you
- We must let you know how we use any personal and/or healthcare information we hold about you
- We need to inform you in respect of what we do with it
- We need to tell you about who we share it with or pass it on to and why
- We need to let you know how long we can keep it for

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) became law on 24 May 2016. This was a single EU-wide regulation on the protection of confidential and sensitive information. It entered into force in the UK on the 25 May 2018, repealing the Data Protection Act (1998). Following Brexit, the GDPR became incorporated into the [Data Protection Act 2018 \(DPA18\)](#) at Part 2, Chapter 2 titled The UK GDPR.

For the purpose of applicable data protection legislation (including but not limited to the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA2018) and Part 2 the UK GDPR).

How we will use your information

Your data is collected for the purpose of providing safe and effective health care. We will share relevant information from your medical record with other health or social care staff or organisations when they provide you with care. For example, your GP will share information when they refer you to a specialist in a hospital or your GP will send details about your prescription to your chosen pharmacy.

Any health and social care organisation that you have contact with keeps a record about you. This means that, wherever you go in Northern Ireland for health or social care services, the doctors and nurses looking after you will have some information about you. Processing your information is done strictly in accordance with the [Data Protection Act 2018](#) (DPA18) incorporating the UK GDPR at [Part 2, Chapter 2](#).

You have the right to object to information being shared for your own care. Please speak to this practice if you wish to object. You also have the right to have any mistakes or errors corrected.

Maintaining confidentiality and accessing your records

We are committed to maintaining confidentiality and protecting the information we hold about you. All authorised staff are obliged, within their contracts of employment, within their professional Codes of Conduct (as applicable) and by the common law duty of confidentiality to ensure that all personal information contained within the NIECR is treated with the highest possible levels of confidentiality. Furthermore, all staff adhere to the UK GDPR, as well as guidance issued by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

You have a right to access the information we hold about you, and if you would like to access this information, you will need to complete a Subject Access Request (SAR). Please ask at reception for a SAR form and you will be given further information. Furthermore, should you identify any inaccuracies, you have a right to have the inaccurate data corrected.

Risk stratification

Your medical records will be searched by a computer programme so that we can identify patients who might be at high risk from certain diseases such as heart disease or unplanned admissions to hospital. This means we can offer patients additional care or support as early as possible.

This process will involve linking information from your GP record with information from other health or social care services you have used. Information which identifies you will only be seen by this practice.

Information shared by law

Sometimes we need to share information with other organisations, but this will only happen in very specific circumstances, including, but not limited to data:

- Required by law or by a court order
- Necessary to meet the requirements of Section 66 of [The Children \(Northern Ireland\) Order 1995](#)
- Necessary to detect or prevent a crime, including allegations or suspicions of fraud

- Necessary to protect the public from serious harm, e.g., the protection of vulnerable adults
- Required for monitoring certain health conditions, e.g., infectious diseases

Safeguarding

Sometimes we need to share information so that other people, including healthcare staff, children or others with safeguarding needs, are protected from risk of harm. These circumstances are rare, and we do not need your consent or agreement to do this.

Medical research

This practice shares information from medical records to support medical research when the law allows us to do so, for example to learn more about why people get ill and what treatments might work best. We will also use your medical records to carry out research within the practice.

The use of information from GP medical records is very useful in developing new treatments and medicines; medical researchers use information from these records to help to answer important questions about illnesses and disease so that improvements can be made to the care and treatment patients receive. We share information with the following medical research organisations with your explicit consent or when the law allows: Clinical Practice Research Datalink (CPRD).

You have the right to object to your identifiable information being used or shared for medical research purposes. Please speak to the practice if you wish to object.

Checking the quality of care – national clinical audits

This practice contributes to national clinical audits so that healthcare can be checked and reviewed. Information from medical records can help doctors and other healthcare workers to measure and check the quality of care that is provided to you. The results of the checks or audits can show where organisations are doing well and where they need to improve. These results are also used to recommend improvements to patient care.

The data will include information about you, such as your NHS Number and date of birth, and information about your health which is recorded in coded form – for example the code for diabetes or high blood pressure. We will only share your information for national clinical audits or checking purposes when the law allows.

You have the right to object to any identifiable information being shared for national clinical audits. Contact the practice if you wish to discuss. For more information about national clinical audits, see the Healthcare Quality Improvements Partnership [website](#)

Opt-outs

You can opt out of sharing information about your allergies or medications made available to the [Northern Ireland Electronic Care Record](#) through the Emergency Care Summary Record by telling this practice.

We are required by law to provide you with the following information about how we handle your information:

Data Controller	GP Partners at Meadowbridge Surgery
Data Protection Officer	Diane Lavery, Practice Manager.
Purpose of the processing	<p>To give direct health or social care to individual patients. An example is, when a patient agrees to a referral for direct care, such as to a hospital, relevant information about the patient will be shared with the other healthcare staff to enable them to give appropriate advice, investigations, treatments and/or care.</p> <p>To check and review the quality of care. This is called audit and clinical governance. Medical research and to check the quality of care which is given to patients (this is called national clinical audit).</p>
Lawful basis for processing	<p>These purposes are supported under the following sections of the GDPR:</p> <p><i>Article 6(1)(e)</i> ‘...necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority...’; and</p> <p><i>Article 9(2)(h)</i> ‘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...’</p> <p>The following sections of the GDPR mean that we can use medical records for research and to check the quality of care (national clinical audits):</p> <p><i>Article 6(1)(e)</i> – ‘processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller’.</p> <p>For medical research: there are two possible Article 9 conditions</p>

	<p>Article 9(2)(j) – ‘processing is necessary for... scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes in accordance with Article 89(1) based on Union or Member States law which shall be proportionate to the aim pursued, respect the essence of the right to data protection and provide for suitable and specific measures to safeguard the fundamental rights and interests of the data subject’.</p> <p>Healthcare staff will also respect and comply with their obligations under the common law duty of confidence.</p>
Recipient or categories of recipients of the processed data	<p>The data will be shared with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthcare professionals and staff in this surgery • Local hospitals • Out of hours services • Diagnostic and treatment centres • Other organisations involved in the provision of direct care to individual patients <p>For medical research anonymised data may be shared with Clinical Practice Research Datalink (CPRD). For national clinical audits that check the quality of care, the data may be shared with HSC.</p>
Rights to object	<p>You have the right to object to information being shared between those who are providing you with direct care. This may affect the care you receive – please speak to the practice.</p> <p>You are not able to object when information is legitimately shared for safeguarding reasons. In appropriate circumstances, it is a legal and professional requirement to share information for safeguarding reasons. This is to protect people from harm.</p> <p>The information will be shared with the local safeguarding service.</p>
Right to access and correct	<p>You have the right to access your medical record and have any errors or mistakes corrected. Please speak to a member of staff or look at our Access to Medical Records Policy.</p> <p>We are not aware of any circumstances in which you will have the right to delete correct information from your medical record; although you are free to obtain your own legal advice if you believe there is no lawful purpose for which we hold the information and contact us if you hold a different view.</p>

Retention period	<p>In accordance with the Health and Personal Social Services (General Medical Services Contracts) Regulations (NI) 2004, your GP medical records will be returned to the HSCB when you die or when you are no longer a patient of a GP at this practice</p> <p>The HSCB will retain records for 10 years after you die or if you emigrate.</p>
Right to complain	<p>In the unlikely event that you are unhappy with any element of our data-processing methods, do please contact the Practice Manager in the first instance. If you feel that we have not addressed your concern appropriately, you have the right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)</p> <p>Further details, visit https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/ and select "Make a complaint" or telephone: 0303 123 1113.</p>
Data we get from other organisations	<p>We receive information about your health from other organisations who are involved in providing you with health and social care. For example, if you go to hospital for treatment or an operation the hospital will send us a letter to let us know what happens. This means your GP medical record is kept up-to date when you receive care from other parts of the health service.</p>

What to do if you have any questions

Should you have any questions about our privacy policy or the information we hold about you, you can:

- Contact the practice's Data Controller via email
- Write to the Data Controller
- Ask to speak to the Practice Manager, Diane Lavery or their deputy Holly McCann.

Changes to our privacy policy

We regularly review our privacy policy. This policy was reviewed 28 January 2026