

## **Covid-19 and your information - Updated on 01.06.2020**

### **Privacy note on Covid-19 for Patients/Service Users**

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 [www.parsonagesurgery.co.uk](http://www.parsonagesurgery.co.uk) & displayed in our Reception.

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 neighboring 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](#).

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.

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.

### **SCR coronavirus (COVID-19) supplementary privacy notice**

Information for patients explaining how health and social care organisations may use your Summary Care Record information within the health and social care system to protect you and others during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. **NHS Digital have developed a Supplementary SCR (COVID-19) Privacy Notice to outline these changes** <https://digital.nhs.uk/services/summary-care-records-scr/scr-coronavirus-covid-19-supplementary-privacy-notice>

Patients still have the option of retaining a Core SCR and opting out of sharing Additional Information, or opting out of having an SCR altogether, The NHS Digital form has been published to allow patients to exercise their option, which should be returned to their practice. Practices should then make changes in exactly the same way as they currently do. The form can also be accessed via the NHS Digital Supplementary COVID-19 Privacy Notice (link below) or <https://digital.nhs.uk/services/summary-care-records-scr/scr-patient-consent-preference-form>

**\*Please note the form indicates 'new patients' but it can be used for updates for patients to provide their preferences**

**GPES data for pandemic planning and research (COVID-19)** provides details about how NHS Digital collects, analyses, publishes and disseminates personal data collected from GP practices for coronavirus (COVID-19) planning and research purposes:

<https://digital.nhs.uk/coronavirus/gpes-data-for-pandemic-planning-and-research/transparency-notice-gpes-data-for-pandemic-planning-and-research-covid-19>

### **How we look after your personal information during the Covid-19 pandemic when staff work from home.**

In accordance with government guidance and in order to protect the health and safety of our staff during this difficult period we may as required assign staff to work from home.

This means that staff may have access to any necessary personal and/or medical information in order to look after your healthcare needs. We would like to assure you that our staff will be subject to all relevant security procedures and policies of the Practice to ensure that any information is kept safe, secure and confidential at all times.



If you have any concerns about how your information may be used please contact our DPO who will be happy to assist with your enquiry.

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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.

