

# Patient Information

**Patient information** is generally held under legal and ethical obligations of confidentiality.

The NHS is committed to the delivery of a first class confidential service.

Key identifiable information includes

- Patients name, address, full postcode, date of birth, NHS number.
- Anything else that may be useful to identify a patient directly or indirectly. For example rare diseases, drug treatments or statistical analysis within a small population which may allow individuals to be identified.

*Every member of the Parsonage Surgery team, doctors, nurses and admin is 'signed up' to protect the confidentiality of every patient.*

This means that none of them will ever reveal a patient's address or discuss a patient's illness or treatment with any third party. The only exception is when a doctor writes a referral note to consultant or specialist but again, this is done only with the patients consent.

# Patient Confidentiality



## Family

**Partners:** Confidential information will not be shared with a partner or spouse without completion of a third party consent form.

**Teenagers:** Under 16's may ask that information is not shared with parents or guardians. If the patient is considered to be mature enough to make sensible and reasonable decisions, that request will be observed unless that child is seriously at risk

**Teenagers:** Confidential information about teenagers over 16 years cannot be divulged to parents or guardians without the patient's consent

**Protecting patients:** There is an overriding rule for the protection of all patients.

When a doctor considers a patient's health is at risk, or is in a vulnerable situation, information may be shared on a 'need to know' basis with a carer, parent or guardian. This is quite exceptional and happens only after full consideration of the relevant facts.

**The vulnerable or frail:** if you have vulnerable or frail people in your household, it may be worth asking the specific question about sharing medical information at their next GP's appointment.

Patients can talk to their GP to discuss what they are willing to share and who with ie carers, spouses or partners a third party consent form can be completed at reception.

**Vulnerable and frail patients:** should discuss their options with their GP and decide what to share and who to share with.