



REPLY TO MS

REPLY TO HHC

SHARING PATIENT INFORMATION

Dear Tadley Medical Partnership Patient

Your practice protects your personal information and clinical record. Patient confidentiality is always paramount both with respect to consultations and record keeping and represents one of the foundations of general practice. In the next two months you will receive information about two new NHS initiatives relating to your personal information and I will attempt to summarize the difference and what to do about these.

1. SUMMARY CARE RECORD

This is a very basic record of your Name, Date of Birth, Address, NHS number, Medications and Allergies. This information will be available electronically to registered users (clinicians including GP's hospital doctors, out-of-hours clinicians) and this information will only be accessed with your permission. The clinicians will all be approved and will all have their own pin-numbers to enable access. Any inspection of your data will be logged and recorded. It may be that in future you may choose to add other clinical data but it is just the basic information for starters.

You do have a choice as to whether or not to accept to do this and all households are being sent an explanation and an opt-out form. If you choose not to opt-out, this information will be added and processed automatically. It is a local arrangement managed by your local Clinical Commissioning Group and further information is available on nhscarerecords.nhs.uk.

2. DATA EXTRACTION SERVICE/CARE.DATA

This is completely different and is the Central NHS way of collecting, researching and analysing information. This is done by the health and social care information centre. Any request for information will have to be verified by something called an Independent Advisory Group made up by several NHS bodies who will confirm that information requested is appropriate and warranted. The request will come to the practice and we will then decide whether or not to comply. Each request will be treated on a case-by-case basis, but occasionally statutory obligations may be applied when there may be legal processes or overriding public interest matters at stake and we would have no choice.

Information in this regard will be the patient's NHS number, Postcode, Date-of-Birth, Gender and information will be coded. This will also include vaccinations, diagnoses, referrals, reference values or practice information. There will be no free text and this information may be linked to any of the patient's information being received from other sources (hospitals or clinics). The information will be used by the Central NHS to monitor and review and plan health and social matters with the Health and Social Care Information Centre giving approved NHS Research Bodies the information to analyse within the NHS.

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This will not be used for marketing. Insurance companies, solicitors, nor any drug companies and individuals will never be identified in the reports produced. Further information is available at www.hscic.gov.uk or www.nhs.uk/caredata.

There are three steps at which we can decline to provide requested information:

- a) The practice can decline any request on a case-by-case basis.
- b) You can elect not to have any of your information sent to the HSCIC and we will code your record accordingly.
- c) You can elect to have your information correlated by the HSCIC but then not forwarded onto the NHS Researchers for further evaluation. If you are happy to have this information shared – do nothing and this will happen, but you are entitled to change your mind at any time.

It is all very confusing, but the Summary Care Record is a very good idea and the data extraction will have to be monitored on a case-by-case basis. I am responsible for the Tadley Medical Partnership Information Governance and to ensure that your personal information is protected. You will receive other NHS information in this regard, but if you are unhappy or concerned, then please do let us know by contacting either myself, or Mrs Alison Jenner, the Practice Manager.

Yours sincerely

DR D R NEWMAN
Caldicott Guardian for
Tadley Medical Partnership