

# Sunderland Health Care

## Information Sharing



**All Together  
Better**

Better Health and Care  
for Sunderland

Shared information.  
Better care for you.

## What is the Sunderland Health Care Information Sharing?

At the moment, every health organisation holds a different set of records about you. This information may be duplicated or incomplete.

Sunderland health care information sharing is a confidential way of improving the care you receive by allowing a range of services to share the information held electronically about you in their records. Healthcare staff have different levels of access depending on their role, ranging from full to partial access i.e. a Community Matron has different access to a Physiotherapist.

Your GP practice and South Tyneside Foundation Trust (which provides our local community healthcare services – like community nurses, specialist GP's and physiotherapy services) work together to do this. In the future we hope to include more health and social care organisations to make the service even better.

## What are the benefits of information sharing?

- Joined-up and safer care.
- More time to spend on care.
- Less paperwork.
- Informed decision making.
- Don't have to repeat details to different professionals.

Information is already shared by phone; email; fax and on paper but the new system allows this to happen quickly; efficiently and, most importantly, more securely.

## What kind of information will be shared?

- List of diagnosed conditions – so professionals have a complete record of your care.
- Medications – so everyone treating you knows what medicines you've been prescribed.
- Allergies – to make sure you aren't given medicine that might give you an adverse reaction.
- Test results – to speed up your treatment and care.
- Referrals, clinic letters and discharge information – to make sure the people caring for you have all the information they need about other treatment you're having elsewhere.
- Address and telephone number - your up-to-date contact details.



## Can anybody view my shared records?

**NO.** Only health professionals directly involved in your care will see your health record. We won't share it with anyone who isn't providing your treatment, care or support. Your details won't be made public, passed on to a third party or used for advertising.

## How do I know my shared records are secure?

By law, everyone working in, or for, the NHS and social care must respect your privacy and keep your information safe.

Information about your health is held on secure computer systems by the NHS.

The system records anyone who looks at a person's information, the time and date of access and the information they viewed.

Data Protection is taken very seriously and we check that your information is only accessed by the people who need to see it.



**YES**

## Can I access my Sunderland Care information?

**YES.** Under the Data Protection Act 1998 you can request access to all information that organisations hold about you, including copies of paper and electronic health records. Ask at your GP practice for more information.

## Can I opt out of my Sunderland Health Information being shared?

**YES,** you can choose not to have your information shared, but opting out of information sharing means that your GP cannot share your information with any other healthcare professional. This may have an impact on the level of care you receive.

**If you do not wish to share your information, contact your GP practice.**

# Sharing your health and care information in Sunderland



## Examples of what information will be included as part of Sunderland Health Care Information Sharing?

- A list of your diagnosed conditions
- Details of your medications
- Allergies
- Test results
- Referrals, clinic letters and discharge information
- Address and contact details

## BENEFITS



Secure



Give your details once



Quicker response and more time with you



Informed decisions about your care



More joined up

# All Together Better

Better Health and Care for Sunderland

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