**How the NHS and care services use your information**

Brig Royd Surgery is one of many organisations working in the health and care system to improve care for patients and the public.

Whenever you use a health or care service, such as attending Accident & Emergency or using Community Care services, important information about you is collected in a patient record for that service. Collecting this information helps to ensure you get the best possible care and treatment.

The information collected about you when you use these services can also be used and provided to other organisations for purposes beyond your individual care, for instance to help with:

• improving the quality and standards of care provided

• research into the development of new treatments

• preventing illness and diseases

* monitoring safety

• planning services

This may only take place when there is a clear legal basis to use this information. All these uses help to provide better health and care for you, your family and future generations. Confidential patient information about your health and care is **only used** like this where allowed by law.

Most of the time, anonymised data is used for research and planning so that you cannot be identified in which case your confidential patient information isn’t needed.

You have a choice about whether you want your confidential patient information to be used in this way. If you are happy with this use of information you do not need to do anything. If you do choose to opt-out your confidential patient information will still be used to support your individual care.

**National data opt-out patient information**

The NHS introduced a new national data opt-out on 25 May 2018.  While there are many benefits associated with using data, the new opt-out offers people in England, the opportunity to choose whether their Confidential Patient Information is used for research and planning purposes. The new national data opt-out gives people the opportunity to opt-out of sharing their confidential patient information for research and planning purposes. The national data opt-out is not about data that is used for a patient’s individual care. Find out more at <https://www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters>

Patients who have a “type 1” opt-out have opted out of sharing their personal identifiable data with any other organisation where the use would be for purposes beyond their individual care and treatment. These opts outs will be respected until 2020, when the Department of Health and Social Care will consult with the National Data Guardian in March 2020 before their removal

Patients with a “type 2” opt-out will have their opt-out converted to the new national opt-out and will be written to from May 2018. Type 2 opt outs were recorded through GP practices and used when a patient asked that their identifiable health and care information is not shared by NHS Digital with any other organisation where the use would be for purposes beyond their individual care and treatment, this applies to all data held by NHS Digital.

The national data opt-out focuses on how patient data is being used rather than the type of organisation using the data

The sharing of identifiable health and care information for purposes beyond an individual’s care and treatment is still subject to Data Protection and the Common Law Duty of Confidentiality considerations - these are not changed by the national data opt-out

To find out more or to register your choice to opt out, please visit [www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters](http://www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters). On this web page you will:

* See what is meant by confidential patient information
* Find examples of when confidential patient information is used for individual care and examples of when it is used for purposes beyond individual care
* Find out more about the benefits of sharing data
* Understand more about who uses the data
* Find out how your data is protected
* Be able to access the system to view, set or change your opt-out setting
* Find the contact telephone number if you want to know any more or to set/change your opt-out by phone
* See the situations where the opt-out will not apply

You can also find out more about how patient information is used at:

[https://www.hra.nhs.uk/information-about-patients/](https://www.hra.nhs.uk/information-about-patients/%20) (which covers health and care research); and

<https://understandingpatientdata.org.uk/what-you-need-know> (which covers how and why patient information is used, the safeguards and how decisions are made)

You can change your mind about your choice at any time.

Data being used or shared for purposes beyond individual care does not include your data being shared with insurance companies or used for marketing purposes and data would only be used in this way with your specific agreement.

Health and care organisations have until 2020 to put systems and processes in place so they can apply your national data opt-out choice. Our organisation is not currently able to apply your national data opt-out choice to any confidential patient information we may use or share with other organisations for purposes beyond your individual care. You need to contact the National Data Opt Out team.

Patients who cannot or do not want to opt-out using an online service can call a national telephone service. The online service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you prefer you can make or change your choice through our telephone helpline 0300 303 5678 (calls charged at local rate). The helpline is available 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, excluding English bank/ public holidays.

\*Please note that you will need your NHS number to hand and access to the mobile phone or email which is registered at your GP. If you would prefer to fill out a paper form, you can either download this online at <https://www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters> or you can request one from the national data opt out helpline – this form will be posted to you.\*

There will be some exemptions to the national data opt-out. For example:
• Where there is an overriding public interest for the data to be used (such as an outbreak of meningitis)
• If the law requires it
• If you have specifically given your permission for your data to be used e.g. you have agreed to take part in a clinical trial and medical research project
• When data is anonymised. Anonymised data is information from many people combined together so it would not be possible to identify an individual from it.

More information can be found on the above website.

Please be aware it can take up to 21 days from the time you register your opt-out choice before it is processed. It may be sooner but it takes time for the opt out to be registered on all systems. NHS Digital will be applying national data opts from 25 May 2018 however it will take time for other health and care organisations to put in place the technical and procedural changes required to apply opt-outs so other health and care organisations have until 2020 to start applying your national data opt-out.

People with parental responsibility for children under the age of 13 such as parents or legally recognised guardians can set or change an individual’s choice national data opt-out on the child’s behalf. People who have a formal legal relationship with a patient such as someone who has a legal power of attorney or a court appointed deputy can act as a proxy and set or change a national data opt-out on the patient’s behalf.

To set or change a national data opt-out as a proxy, the person acting as the proxy will need to either download a form (please direct them here <https://ndop-m.herokuapp.com/NEXT/00-other-ways-to-manage-your-choice>)  or use the telephone service on 0300 303 5678 to ask for a form to be sent to them in the post.