

Kingstone surgery Nov /Dec newsletter

This week is another important message all about data and security. Hold tight!

Online access to full GP records will be enabled automatically for most Kingstone patients soon, probably next month. **This is a program led by NHSE and they have not been clear as to when the final switch on date will be.**

Once this has happened, most patients will then only need to log onto the NHS app/ desktop site to view your GP records. After 'switch on' minority of patients will still need to request access via form B on our website. This is for safety reasons.

Last month the newsletter discussed the **potential pitfalls** to this records access and if you missed this I would encourage you to read this again on our website:

<https://www.kingstonesurgery.co.uk/information/access>

Most importantly, if you think you may be pressured into revealing details from your patient record to someone else against your will, **it is best that you OPT OUT at this time.** You can also ask us for access to be revoked in the future once it has been given. Equally, you can opt in again if circumstances change

There is more information available here www.womensaid.org.uk/information-support/what-is-domestic-abuse/cover-your-tracks-online/

To those issues we would like to add the following: GPs and Practices have not selected the technology platform upon which digital access to patient records is given, nor are we or the BMA privy to the data security measures which NHS England and the technology companies have built into the software save for the requirement to provide a password, finger print or Face-ID on login. However, as a key piece of the Government's IT infrastructure, we expect that the DHSC and NHS England will have taken all necessary precautions to build, develop and test a secure data platform though we are not in a position to confirm that the platform is properly secure.

We believe that NHS patients put the data security of their medical records as a very high priority and would expect that the system is totally secure given the utmost confidential nature of the data. The security of patients' confidential medical data is repeatedly the subject of national news where concerns are raised about such data being used unlawfully for secondary uses by government contractors. The security of NHS patients' data is clearly a matter of significant public interest.

If you do NOT wish your records to have automatic online access, please let us know. This can be done quickly by sending a message to the admin team from our website. Those of you who have mobile phones should have received an **OPT OUT offer** by text message. If you did not receive this, please check your contact details with our admin team. If you have opted out but later decide you wish for online access, you can apply for this by completing 'form B' on our website.

The dispensary continues to provide an excellent service to our patients despite of manufacturers shortages and nationwide supply issues that are out of our control. We would also like to welcome our newest additional dispenser, Stephanie, who will help us keep up with demand due to rising local population and the new medications on offer.

Thank you for your support in the busy festive season – we are lucky that the dispensary revenue cross funds our clinical service.