



*Southend
Clinical Commissioning Group*



We share for better care

Your Health Care Record



What is happening?

From 27 July 2015 the way that health and social care information is shared between GP practices in Southend and Southend-on-Sea Borough Council will change. This is as a result of an amendment to the national regulations that govern how patient identifiable information can be shared between NHS and social services and has been agreed solely for Southend. It is only for data relating to adults.

Your patient health record held by your GP practice will be automatically extracted on a monthly basis and uploaded to an NHS-approved third party system, where it will be held safely and securely. It will then be made accessible to particular health and social care professionals who have been granted access as approved users of the system.

Your GP practice will also be able to view your social care information via the NHS-approved third party system if you have given permission for this.

This change has been agreed by the Secretary of State for Health and we continue to ensure your data is protected in line with the Data Protection Act.

How will this change benefit me?

We have pursued these data sharing freedoms in order that your health and social care professionals can better plan care to meet your needs.

Social care professionals will only be able to view the health and social care records of those patients who are already receiving services from social care.

Ultimately, it is hoped that this change will lead to better health outcomes for patients and help health and social care professionals work more efficiently across the health and social care system.

How is patient consent being established?

The amendment to the national regulations that govern how patient identifiable information can be shared has been granted on the basis of assumed consent. This means that your health records will be shared in your best interests, unless you wish to specifically 'opt out' of having your records shared.

If you do not want your data to be shared in this way please write to your GP practice and simply state you wish to opt out. If you wish to 'opt in' again at a later date, please let your GP or practice manager know and they will ensure that this happens.

What elements of my health record will be shared?

The information that will be shared includes:

- The number of appointments you have had with a GP or practice nurse
- Information about medications you have been prescribed
- Information about your long term conditions or any other condition which requires long term management (if applicable)

If you have any concerns or questions regarding the sharing of your health record please contact your GP or practice manager.

"There are huge benefits for patients as they will only have to tell their story once and all the services and support they receive thereafter will be properly integrated into a single care plan. Everyone involved will be working together in a meaningful way to the benefit of the patient."



**Dr Jose Garcia Lobera,
NHS Southend CCG Chair**

For more information on how your data is shared:
www.southendccg.nhs.uk/datasharing

Other links:

- www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/tsd/ig/risk-stratification
- www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/29/contents
- systems.hscic.gov.uk/infogov/caldicott
- systems.hscic.gov.uk/infogov/caldicott

Write to us:

NHS Southend Clinical Commissioning Group
Harcourt House
5-15 Harcourt Avenue
Southend-on-Sea
Essex SS2 6HE

Email us:

sccg.communications@nhs.net

Phone us:

01702 314299