

Can my information be shared without my consent?

There may be circumstances when we must share information with other organisations. In these rare circumstances we are not required to seek your consent.

Examples include:

- If there is a concern that you are putting yourself at risk of serious harm
- If there is concern that you are putting another person at risk of serious harm
- If there is concern that you are putting a child at risk of harm
- If we have been instructed to do so by a Court
- If the information is essential for the investigation of a serious crime
- If you are subject to the Mental Health Act 2014, there are circumstances in which your "nearest relative" must receive information even if you object
- If your information falls within a category that needs to be notified for public health or other legal reasons e.g. certain infectious diseases.

Who are our partner organisations?

We may share information with the following main partner organisations:

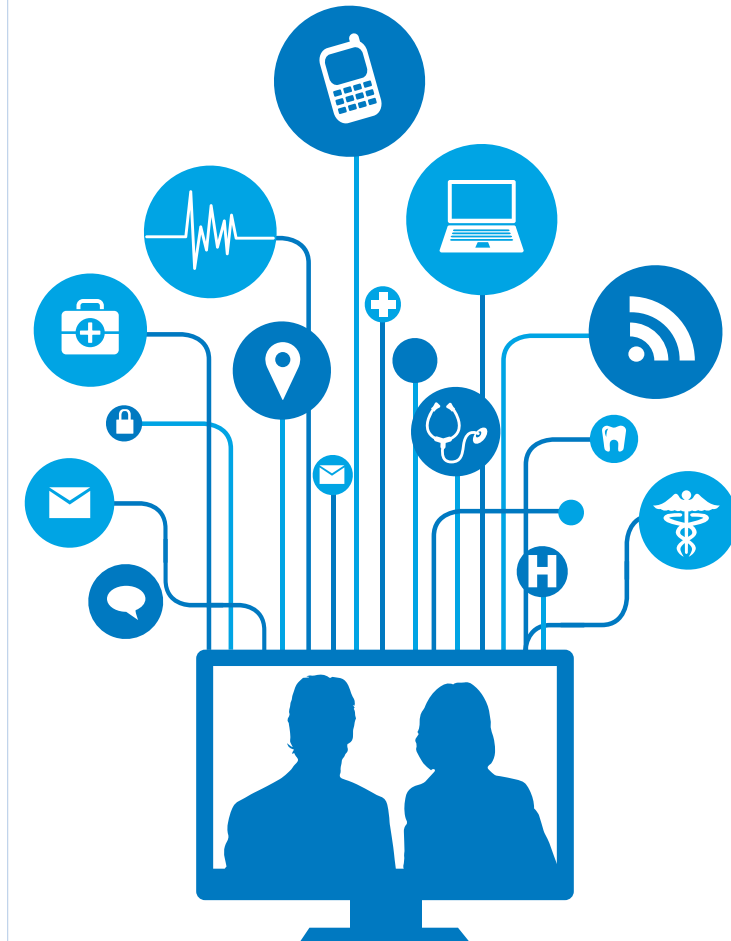
- NHS England
- NHS Trusts (Hospitals, CCGs - Safeguarding & Continuing Healthcare, CSUs)
- Healthcare Providers
- Other General Practitioners (GPs)
- Ambulance Services
- HSCIC (Health and Social Care Information Centre)

We will share information from time to time in connection with your Health and Social Care with the relevant person/s involved in your care at the Local Authority, Private Sector and relevant healthcare providers.

If you would like to speak to someone further about data sharing and what that means for you, please contact the Practice Manager who will direct you to the most appropriate person.



Sharing your information to provide better care



The NHS organisations in Dudley work together and share information to ensure that the care you receive is effective, good quality and meets your needs.

Healthcare professionals working with you keep records about your health and any care or treatment you receive.

These records may be written and held by the professionals involved in your care, such as GPs and nurses, and may be shared with other health professionals.

Some or all of your records may be held on a number of computer systems.

The records we keep about your healthcare may include:

- Basic details that you have given us, like your address or next of kin
- Notes and reports about any treatment and care you need or receive
- Results of your tests
- Relevant information from other professionals, relatives or those who care for you or know you well
- Any contacts you have with us such as visits or appointments.

If you have concerns about the information that you share with a professional involved in your care, please discuss with them how it is kept and what will be shared with others.

The law protects your right to confidentiality and we will ensure your records are kept confidential at all times. If you do not want your information to be shared, please speak to your GP Practice.

What will we do with your information?

Your records are used to guide and record the treatment and care you receive. Your records are vital in helping to ensure you receive good quality and timely care.

We have to follow strict rules on how we share your information

Everyone working in the NHS has a legal duty to keep information about you confidential. Anyone who receives information from us is also under a legal duty to keep it confidential.

From time to time we may share information with other healthcare professionals. This may be, for instance, to provide other healthcare professionals with the most up to date information about your health which helps us provide 'joined-up' care for you; or when your care team needs to discuss your case with other professionals who are not in the same team, in order to plan your care.

We do this in order to provide the most appropriate treatment and support for you and your carers, or when the welfare of other people is involved. We will only share information if it is considered necessary.

Do I have to agree to the sharing of my data?

No. You will be asked for your consent before your record is accessed by the doctors or nurses providing your care, except in an emergency or if you are unconscious when your consent will be assumed.

If you do not want your information to be shared, you can opt out by speaking to your GP practice.

If you're not sure you want your information to be shared or have concerns, speak to your GP practice and they will explain what this means.

Your instructions with regard to the sharing of your information will be recorded on your GP record. This, together with the recording of your consent before your record is accessed, will control whether or not your information is shared.

