

Your health records: Changes explained

The NHS is currently rolling out a change to the way it uses patient health records in England. The new system (called the care.data programme) will allow those involved in providing health and care services to more easily assess how well they are doing, and where improvements need to be made.

Leaflets explaining the project in more detail will be delivered to households beginning in January, and data gathering, initially from GP surgeries, will begin in spring 2014.

If you are happy for your information to be used in this way you do not need to do anything. If you have any questions or are not happy for information about you to be shared, contact your GP practice.

For more information about the care.data programme, visit the **NHS Choices website**, contact staff at your GP practice or call the NHS care.data patient information line on: 0300 456 3531.



You

GPs are responsible for looking after the personal information they hold about you.

GP



Under the care.data programme, some information will now be passed to a public body called the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC). They are allowed to take this information by law.



If you don't want your information to be shared, you should contact your GP practice. If you have questions or need further information call 0300 456 3531, or go to www.nhs.uk/caredata

HSCIC

The data will be taken from the GP's computer systems into the HSCIC computer systems.



The data will then be accurately linked with information from other places you receive care in a secure environment.

The HSCIC can release this information in three ways (for more information visit: www.hscic.gov.uk/patientconf).



Anonymised data



Potentially identifiable data



Identifiable data



Public domain



Approved organisations for specific purposes



Organisations who have a legal basis or explicit consent