



Patient Information Leaflet

The Arnewood Practice

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Sharing Medical Records to support YOUR CARE

For further information visit

www.nhs.uk or www.patient.co.uk

INTRODUCTION

We want you to receive the best and most appropriate care. Sharing your medical records with other healthcare professionals who care for you will help us to do that.

HEALTHCARE

Our practice, the Community Doctors and Nurses now use the same electronic patient record system, and Oakhaven Hospice will be linking up to this system imminently.

This means that, with your consent, your full medical record can now be seen by the GPs and community teams who treat you, and if you are being treated and/or supported by Oakhaven Hospice, clinical staff there will be able to share and view relevant medical information about you.

Shared information will help the people caring for you to make more informed decisions about your care. We also know that many people find it frustrating to have to repeatedly 'tell their story' to NHS staff, and sharing information in this way will reduce that.

Looking further ahead, other local NHS staff—such as those in hospitals or Out of Hours services—may also use the same IT system, and so would be able to share clinical information as well.

BENEFITS TO PATIENTS

- **Health professionals have the right information at the right time**
- **You won't need to repeat your medicals history**
- **You avoid unnecessary appointments and tests**
- **You can be more involved in decisions about your care**
- **Your records remain secure and confidential, as they are now**

It is your decision whether your information can be shared with other services, and you can change your mind at any time simply by informing the practice.

- ◆ ***Yes I would like my information to be shared.*** You do not need to do anything, and your record will be available to be viewed by other services involved in your care. Staff will ask you permission before they look at your record for the first time, unless in exceptional circumstances such as a medical emergency, or where the law requires it.
- ◆ ***No I do not want my information to be shared.*** Please complete the enclosed 'Opt-Out' form and return it to the practice, and we will amend your record as required.

If you do nothing we will assume that you are content for your GP record to be available to view by others as part of providing care to you.

If you are the parent or guardian of a child under 16 and feel that they are old enough to understand, then you should make this information available to them.

Please contact the practice as soon as you are able to if you do not want some, or all of your information to be shared. Alternatively, ask your GP/Nurse if you wish to discuss this further.