

FORESTSIDE MEDICAL PRACTICE  
INFORMATION SHEET

The governments New Initiative called “Care.Data” in which they intend to upload identifiable medical records from GP surgeries, hospitals and social care to a body called the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC). They will hold, link and analyze these records. The data they upload will include: - You’re Date of Birth, Full Post Code, NHS Number and Gender which will then be used to link your records and managed by the (HSCIC).

While data sharing in the NHS is not new, many of you may have overlooked the launch of this project. Notification has been sent to every household in the form of a leaflet however; unfortunately this might sometimes become muddled in with junk mail, as it is not in an envelope, but loose with the other leaflets and could then get thrown away.

You may be aware of previous data-sharing projects including the excellent Hampshire Health Record (HHR) and the national Summary Care Record (SCR), which have both been for direct use in patient care. Patients now need to be aware that this new initiative is different as it is not being directly used for your care and will not be available to clinicians for your care, but used instead for planning of care and research into population care needs.

There have been some concerns about how the information may be used or released to external researchers. We are assured that the government & HSCIC have strong information governance procedures in place.

**Most importantly, the upload of this information is an opt-out scheme, thereby all data will be uploaded in the spring, unless patients specifically opt out. Also notably, opt-out's for previous schemes (should you**

FORESTSIDE MEDICAL PRACTICE  
INFORMATION SHEET

**have registered your dissent to the SCR or HHR or both), will NOT count for this data extraction and a further opt-out is needed, which must be registered with your GP practice.**

Our practice suggests patients who wish to exercise their opt-out, should do so by downloading and filling in one of our opt-out forms, which are available on our website [www.forestsidedmedicalpractice.co.uk](http://www.forestsidedmedicalpractice.co.uk) or by coming into surgery and completing one of the forms in our reception. You do not need to book an appointment for this; Our Reception Staff are happy to deal with your queries and will opt you out if you complete the form.

There is lots of information available on the NHS website at [www.nhs.uk/caredata](http://www.nhs.uk/caredata), or

[www.nhs.uk/nhsengland/thenhs/records/healthrecords/pages/care-data.aspx](http://www.nhs.uk/nhsengland/thenhs/records/healthrecords/pages/care-data.aspx)

By searching for “care.data” using a search engine. We would encourage you to look at both sides of the argument so that you can make an informed decision about your medical record.

Remember, opting out of one system does not mean that you automatically opt out of them all.