

National Data Opt-Out: Your information will not be sold!

With lots of information coming out on social media and in the news about the National Data Opt-out and the General Practice Data for Planning and Research data collection, we want to give patients the information they need to help you make informed choices about your care.

The first collection by NHS Digital's new patient data extraction system will be on **1st September, 2021**.

Patient data from GP medical records kept by GP practices in England is used every day to improve health, care and services through planning and research, helping to find better treatments and improve patient care.

An example of this would be GP data collected as part of the COVID response which is being used by the [University of Oxford RECOVERY trial](#) and is looking to find ways to improve the treatment for people with COVID-19.

The NHS is introducing an improved way to share this information – called the General Practice Data for Planning and Research data collection.

Under the improved scheme, the NHS would collect data about:

- your sex, ethnicity and sexual orientation
- clinical codes and data which would include diagnoses, symptoms, observations, test results, medications, allergies, immunisations, referrals and recalls, and appointments, including information about your physical, mental and sexual health
- staff who have treated you

The NHS will not collect:

- your name and address (except for your postcode in unique coded form)
- written notes (free text), such as the details of conversations with doctors and nurses
- images, letters and documents
- coded data that is not needed due to its age – for example medication, referral and appointment data that is over 10 years old
- coded data that GPs are not permitted to share by law – for example certain codes about IVF treatment, and certain information about gender re-assignment

The NHS will not:

- Sell your data
- Use your data for marketing, market research or advertising

If you do not want your identifiable patient data to be shared outside of your GP practice for purposes except for your own care, you can register an opt-out with your GP practice by September 1st, 2021 which can be found in the links below. You can download the opt out form by clicking [Here](#)

If you do not have internet access, you can call 0300 3035678 to arrange for a form to be sent to you.

If you do not want NHS Digital to share your identifiable patient data with anyone else for purposes beyond your own care, then you can also register a National Data Opt-out. More information can be found [here](#).

We encourage patients to make informed decisions about their health and care and want to reassure patients that whether you decide to opt out or remain opted in, **your care with the surgery will not be affected.**

For more information and the opt-out forms you may need, please visit:

- www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters/
- www.digital.nhs.uk/...advice-for-the-public

24th June 2021