

How
**your health
information**
is used in
Lambeth



What is your health information?



Health services collect and hold information about patients so that they can provide better health care to patients and improve services.

Sometimes we share this information with other health professionals to help us make sure your care is joined up – for instance, by sharing details of the medication you receive, or the operations you’ve had.

This leaflet tells you what sort of details we record, how it is held and shared and how you can see the information we hold about you.

It also tells you how the NHS shares information that does not identify patients to help improvements to services.

Your healthcare history

GPs and practice nurses collect and hold information that includes information about you, your health and the treatment and advice the doctor or nurse provide. Sometimes they record information about your home life and family if it is relevant to your health and healthcare management. Your GP practice also holds the information that is sent to them from other health services such as hospitals.

How do GPs use health information?



Staff working in the same practice

Within the practice, the staff work as a team and divide roles and responsibilities between them. This means it is likely members of the team, other than your doctor or nurse, may see your information in the course of their work. All of our staff are trained to handle your information properly and work according to the Data Protection Act.

Planning for future health needs

GP practices in Lambeth are taking part in a new NHS service that helps your GP to spot whether you need more help to manage your health.

The service is called “risk profiling”. Risk profiling will allow your practice to search all of its patients’ records to identify patients that would most benefit from particular care or treatment.

The information will be seen only by qualified health workers involved in your care. NHS security systems will protect your health information and patient confidentiality at all times. If you don’t want your information being used in this way, or have any other concerns, please speak to your GP practice.



Your healthcare history



Other staff in the practice



Health research



How does your GP practice use your information?

Patient referrals

National services



Other NHS organisations



NHS

Lambeth

Clinical Commissioning Group

How do GPs share information?



Your GP practice may use your information to help them to deliver more effective treatment to you, and to help them to provide you with proactive advice and guidance.

Patient referrals

With your agreement, your GP may refer you to other services and healthcare providers, or they may work with other services to provide your care in the practice. Other services and health care providers will normally tell your GP surgery about the treatment they provide you.

Summary Care Record

All patients who have chosen to, have a Summary Care Record which is used nationally and contains important information from the record held by your GP practice such as details of any medicines you are taking, any allergies you suffer from and any bad reactions to medicines that you have

How do GPs share information?

previously experienced. Your Summary Care Record also includes your name, address, date of birth and your unique NHS number to help identify you correctly.

Summary Care Records are accessible to authorised healthcare staff treating patients in an emergency in England. All information is confidential and only accessible to staff with NHS Smartcards.

You can find out more on www.lambeth.nhs.uk

National services

There are some national services like the National Cancer Screening Programme that collect and keep information from across the NHS. This is how the NHS knows when to contact you about services like cervical, breast or bowel cancer screening. Often you have the right not to allow these organisations to have your information. Please ask your GP or other practice staff about this or go to the 'Do you know your rights' page.

You can find out more about how the NHS holds and shares your information for national programmes on the NHS Choices website: www.nhs.uk

Health research

Occasionally your GP practice works with researchers who would like to work with patients who could help them

How do GPs share information?

with research. If your GP thinks you might be suited, they will write to you to ask if you would like to participate. Your practice will never pass on your details without your consent.

Sharing information within the NHS

Local NHS organisations have a duty to keep complete, accurate and up-to-date information about your health, so that you can receive the best possible care.

Sometimes the people caring for you also need to share some of your information with others that are also supporting you. This could include GPs, hospital based specialists, nurses and health visitors.

Local Care Record

To support this information sharing to happen more quickly and to improve the care you receive, a new process has been put in place in Southwark and Lambeth. This will join-up your care records from local hospital organisations (Guy's and St Thomas', King's College Hospital and South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trusts) with GP practice information through existing computer systems. It is called the **Local Care Record**.

Information is only shared when it is needed to make your care and treatment safer, easier and faster and only with those people directly involved in your care.

How do GPs share information?

This could include allowing a hospital doctor to see the medication that a GP has prescribed for you when you go in to hospital or allowing a GP to see what care, tests or treatment you received while in hospital.

Above all it will allow professionals that are supporting you to work with you to make safer and better decisions about your care.

The new system will start to operate in a small number of GP practices and hospital services in August 2015, and other organisations will continue to join during 2015 and 2016.

The doctor or healthcare professional treating you will inform you that they are accessing your shared Local Care Record. However, in an emergency situation where you may not be conscious or able to give consent, they will access your information to give you the best care.

You can choose for your information not to be shared between your local NHS organisations, but please note that not sharing your information may affect the care you receive.

For more information visit www.lambethccg.nhs.uk or talk to your GP practice or the hospital team looking after you.

How do GPs share information?

Lambeth DataNet

Lambeth DataNet uses GP patient records to obtain anonymous information to help plan and improve healthcare services.

The information collected includes data such as the area patients live, age, gender, ethnicity, language preference, country of birth and religion. DataNet also collects information such as whether patients have long term conditions such as diabetes, blood pressure and cholesterol levels and medication. However, this information is anonymous and does not include anything written as notes by the GP and cannot be linked to you.

The information is shared by GPs with GPs with NHS Lambeth Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Lambeth Public Health and researchers at King's College London, to identify patterns of illnesses and local health needs. This helps them to plan the best ways of improving services to make sure everyone can access good health care.

The information collected by DataNet is private and secure and stored as anonymous data. DataNet is managed by NHS Lambeth Clinical Commissioning Group who work with partners from Lambeth and Southwark Public Health teams, King's College London and Lambeth GPs.

How do GPs share information?

There are strict rules and procedures to decide who can access DataNet information which is never shared with third parties for commercial purposes.

To find out more about DataNet, visit www.lambethccg.nhs.uk

Other NHS organisations

Sometimes your practice shares information with other organisations that do not treat you, for example, the clinical commissioning group. Normally, it will not be possible to identify you from this information. In exceptional circumstances, for example when required by law, court order or if we have specific concerns, we may share information about you with other authorities.

Your information



When your doctor collects and keeps your information, they follow the principles and values set out in the NHS Constitution and they only use it for your benefit.

Can I see my health records?

You have the right to see information your GP practice holds about you. They may charge for this. Please ask them about this.

Can I choose who sees my information?

Your GP practice will record your preferences about how you would like them to use your information and with whom it can be shared. GP practices in Lambeth are improving their systems so that all staff will be able to record your preferences at an appropriate time. We are developing a safe system to do this. Please bear with us as we make these improvements.



Your information

If I'm concerned about information sharing in the NHS who can I speak to?

If you would like more information about how your GP collects and holds your information, you can ask to speak to your practice's Caldicott Guardian's representative; this is the person who ensures that your practice looks after information according to the Data Protection Act.

More information

You can find out more about how the NHS shares your information on NHS Lambeth Clinical Commissioning Group's website: www.lambeth.nhs.uk or by emailing lamccg.mail@nhs.net