

Other uses of information

National NHS surveys

Your information is sometimes passed for entry to national registers for example the Diabetic Register, Cancer Registry, National Joint Registry, transplant databases or any other databases held nationally or locally about various illnesses.

To help manage the NHS

Your information is also used to help manage the NHS. It is passed in an anonymised format and in some cases in an identifiable format



for national and local returns, quality of information and care, and treatment information.

Information can also be used from a public health perspective, to identify where and what types of illnesses the general public suffer from.

To train NHS professionals (i.e. doctors and nurses)

Your information could be used to help educate healthcare professionals who are involved in patient care.

If you would like to know more about what is done with your information please contact:

The Data Protection Officer
Bedford Hospital NHS Trust
Kempston Road
Bedford
MK42 9DJ

By email:

dataprotection@bedfordhospital.nhs.uk

By phone: 01234 355122
Ext. 5668

If you require this leaflet in an alternative format please contact our Patient Advice & Liaison Service (PALS) on: 01234 795814

Patient Information Leaflet What happens to information about you?



A leaflet about your rights and our obligations to you

Why keep records about you?

We will ask you for information about yourself so that you can receive proper care and treatment.



Some of this information, together with details of your care is held on computer and some in paper records.

Clinical information is held about you to ensure clinicians have a complete and continuous record about your past, current and future treatment.

To avoid delay in searching for your records you are given a unique patient identifier your hospital number.

To ensure your records are kept up to date you may be asked to confirm your personal details whenever we communicate with you.

Our commitment to you

The Trust will:

- **Protect** - look after your information
- **Inform** - ensure you are aware of how your information is used
- **Provide choice** - allow patients to decide whether their information could be disclosed or used in a particular way

Legal responsibilities

The Data Protection Act 1998 gives you, the patient, (known in the Act as the Data Subject) various rights.

All staff working in the NHS have a duty to provide a **confidential service**.

A breach of confidentiality under the Data Protection Act will result in the Trust, or in some cases the Information Commissioner, taking disciplinary action.

The Trust actively implements and regularly audits security measures to ensure information is safe.

Your rights under the Data Protection Act 1998

- You have a right to see information held about you;
- You have the right to seek compensation if you suffer damage due to the way information about you is used;
- You have the right to ask for a record to be corrected if you believe factual information is wrong.

The full extent of your rights are detailed in the Data Protection Act 1998. Please log on to the Information Commissioner's website www.ico.gov.uk to find out more.

Note: We are legally able to pass information to the police in the interests of preventing and detecting crime

What else can your information be used for?

Information may be held not only for the purposes of any treatment you may be undergoing, but also for your health and well being as dealt with by other organisations,

Information is also used for **audit and research**.

Information will be used for clinical audit following or during consultation or treatment.

Clinical audit reviews current standards or Trust patient care against accepted best practice. Audit results are discussed by clinicians to make improvements to patient care.

Audit results can be published and/or presented, but this is always done in anonymised format so that individual patients cannot be identified.

Research seeks to investigate new treatments, interventions and management procedures so that patient care outcomes are continually improved.

Any research will be approved by a Research Ethics Committee. If anything to do with research involves you personally, you will be contacted to see if you are willing to take part.

Note: Clinical Auditors audit what has been done. Researchers research into what could be done in the future.