

# DATA OPT OUT POLICY

## Introduction

In May 2018, the strict rules about how this data can and cannot be used were strengthened. The NHS is committed to keeping patient information safe and always being clear about how it is used.

Information about your health and care helps us to improve your individual care, speed up diagnosis, plan your local services and research new treatments.

The NHS is committed to keeping patient information safe and always being clear about how it is used.

### 1.0 How is your information used?

Information about your individual care such as treatment and diagnoses is collected about you whenever you use health and care services.

It is also used to help us and other organisations for research and planning such as research into new treatments, deciding where to put GP clinics and planning for the number of doctors and nurses in your local hospital.

It is only used in this way when there is a clear legal basis to use the information to help improve health and care for you, your family and future generations.

Wherever possible we try to use data that does not identify you, but sometimes it is necessary to use your confidential patient information.

### 2.0 You have a choice

You do not need to do anything if you are happy about how your information is used. If you do not want your confidential patient information to be used for research and planning, you can choose to opt out securely online or through a telephone service.

You can change your mind about your choice at any time.

If you are 13 or over you can make the decision and set your own national data opt-out.

If you are under 13 your parent or guardian will need to make the decision and set a national data opt-out on your behalf. If they set an opt-out for you, this will stay until you make your own choice.

You can change your mind at any time and as many times as you like.

### **3.0 Will choosing this opt-out affect your care and treatment?**

No, choosing to opt out will not affect how information is used to support your care and treatment. You will still be invited for screening services, such as screenings for bowel cancer.

### **4.0 What do you need to do?**

If you are happy for your confidential patient information to be used for research and planning, you do not need to do anything.

To find out more about the benefits of data sharing, how data is protected, or to make/change your opt-out choice visit [www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters](http://www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters)

Signed:

Information Governance Lead

Practice Manager

Date:

Date:

## PATIENT POSTER

### DATA OPT OUT – PATIENT INFORMATION

**You can choose whether your confidential patient information is used for research and planning.**

#### How your data is used

Your health and care information is used to improve your individual care. It is also used to help us research new treatments, decide where to put GP clinics and plan for the number of doctors and nurses in your local hospital. Wherever possible we try to use data that does not identify you, but sometimes it is necessary to use your confidential patient information.

#### What is confidential patient information?

Confidential patient information identifies you and says something about your health, care or treatment. You would expect this information to be kept private. Information that only identifies you, like your name and address, is not considered confidential patient information and may still be used: for example, to contact you if your GP practice is merging with another.

#### Who can use your confidential patient information for research and planning?

It is used by the NHS, local authorities, university and hospital researchers, medical colleges and pharmaceutical companies researching new treatments.

#### Making your data opt-out choice

You can choose to opt out of sharing your confidential patient information for research and planning. There may still be times when your confidential patient information is used: for example, during an epidemic where there might be a risk to you or to other people's health. You can also still consent to take part in a specific research project.

#### Will choosing this opt-out affect your care and treatment?

No, your confidential patient information will still be used for your individual care. Choosing to opt out will not affect your care and treatment. You will still be invited for screening services, such as screenings for bowel cancer.

#### What should you do next?

You do not need to do anything if you are happy about how your confidential patient information is used.

If you do not want your confidential patient information to be used for research and planning, you can choose to opt out securely online or through a telephone service.

**You can change your choice at any time.**

To find out more or to make your choice visit [nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters](https://nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters)  
or call 0300 303 5678

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**I thought everything I said to my doctor was private. Is that changing?**

No. The NHS knows that keeping the info you share with your doctor private is really important. That's why they'll be protecting your privacy very carefully.

The people who use the info will have to be really careful with it, as there are laws that say how it can and can't be used. This includes new laws from May which gave people more control over their info.

**What do I need to do?**

If you're happy for your health and care info to be used for planning and research you don't need to do anything.

If you don't want info about you used for research and planning, you can opt out. The decision you make will not affect your individual care and you can change your choice at any time.

You can find out more about how your health and care information is used at [nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters](https://nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters) or call 0300 303 5678.

To use the Next Generation Text Service (NGTS) dial 18001 followed by 0300 303 5678.

You can opt out online or by calling our helpline. You can use these to change your mind at any time.

0300 303 5678

[nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters](https://nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters)

**Can I do this myself?**

If you are 13 or over you can make the decision and set your own national data opt-out.

If you are under 13 your parent or guardian will need to make the decision and set a national data opt-out on your behalf. If they set an opt-out for you, this will stay until you make your own choice.

**I'm under 13 and someone else made the decision for me. Can I change it later?**

Yes. You can change your mind at any time and as many times as you like.

For more information about your data rights please visit the Your Data Matters campaign at [ico.org.uk](https://ico.org.uk).