

# How your information is used for medical research and to measure the quality of care

## Medical research

Ravenscar Surgery is one of many organisations working in the health and care system to improve care for patients and the public.

Whenever you use a health or care service, such as attending Accident and Emergency or using Community Care services, important information about you is collected in a patient record for that service. Collecting this information helps to ensure you get the best possible care and treatment.

The information collected about you when you use these services can also be used and provided to other organisations for purposes beyond your individual care, for instance to help with:

- Improving the quality and standards of care provided
- Research into the development of new treatments
- Preventing illness and diseases
- Monitoring safety
- Planning services

This may only take place when there is a clear legal basis to use this information. All these uses help to provide better health and care for you, your family and future generations. Confidential patient information about your health and care is **only used** like this where allowed by law.

Most of the time, anonymized data is used for research and planning so that you cannot be identified in which case your confidential patient information isn't needed.

You have a choice about whether you want your confidential patient information to be used in this way. If you are happy with this use of information you do not need to do anything. If you do choose to opt out, your confidential patient information will still be used to support your individual care.

To find out more or to register your choice to opt out, please visit [www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters](http://www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters). On this web page you will:

- See what is meant by confidential patient information
- Find examples of when confidential patient information is used for individual care and examples of when it is used for purposes beyond individual care
- Find out more about the benefits of sharing data
- Understand more about who uses the data
- Find out how your data is protected
- Be able to access the system to view, set or change your opt-out setting

- Find the contact telephone number if you want to know any more or to set/change your opt-out by phone
- See the situations where the opt-out will not apply.

You can also find out more about how patient information is used at:

<https://www.hra.nhs.uk/information-about-patients/> (which covers health and care research); and <https://understandingpatientdata.org.uk/what-you-need-know> (which covers how and why patient information is used, the safeguards and how decisions are made).

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

Data being used or shared for purposes beyond individual care does not include your data being shared with insurance companies or used for marketing purposes and data would only be used in this way with your specific agreement.

Health and Care Organisations have until 2020 to put systems and processes in place so they can be compliant with the national data opt-out and apply your choice to any confidential patient information they use or share for purposes beyond your individual care. Our Organisation is compliant with the national data opt-out policy.

Ravenscar Surgery shares information from medical records:

- to support medical research when the law allows us to do so, for example to learn more about why people get ill and what treatments might work best;
- we will also use your medical records to carry out research within the practice.

This is important because:

- the use of information from GP medical records is very useful in developing new treatments and medicines;
- medical researchers use information from medical records to help answer important questions about illnesses and disease so that improvements can be made to the care and treatment patients receive.

We share information with the following medical research organisations with your explicit consent or when the law allows:

NIHR Clinical Research Network North East and North Cumbria

Interface Clinical Services.

You have the right to object to your identifiable information being used or shared for medical research purposes. If you wish to opt-out, please visit [www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters](http://www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters)

## Checking the quality of care - national clinical audits

Ravenscar Surgery contributes to national clinical audits so that healthcare can be checked and reviewed.

- Information from medical records can help doctors and other healthcare workers measure and check the quality of care which is provided to you.
- The results of the checks or audits can show where hospitals are doing well and where they need to improve.
- The results of the checks or audits are used to recommend improvements to patient care.
- Data are sent to NHS Digital, a national body with legal responsibilities to collect data.
- The data will include information about you, such as your NHS Number and date of birth and information about your health which is recorded in coded form - for example the code for diabetes or high blood pressure.
- We will only share your information for national clinical audits or checking purposes when the law allows.
- For more information about national clinical audits see the Healthcare Quality Improvements Partnership website: <https://www.hqip.org.uk/> or phone 020 7997

7370.

- You have the right to object to your identifiable information being shared for national clinical audits. Please contact the practice if you wish to object.

We are required by law to provide you with the following information about how we share your information for medical research purposes.

<b>Data Controller</b> contact details	Ravenscar Surgery, Redcar Primary Care Hospital, West Dyke Road, Redcar. TS10 4NW
<b>Data Protection Officer</b> contact details	Liane Cotterill, Senior Governance Manager & Data Protection Officer, North of England Commissioning Support, Teesdale House, Westpoint Road, Thornaby, Stockton. TS17 6BL
<b>Purpose</b> of the processing	Medical research and to check the quality of care which is given to patients (this is called national clinical audit).
<b>Lawful basis</b> for processing	<p>The following sections of the GDPR mean that we can use medical records for research and to check the quality of care (national clinical audits)</p> <p>Article 6(1)(e) – ‘processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller’.</p> <p>For medical research: Article 9(2)(j) – ‘processing is necessary for... scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes in accordance with Article 89(1) based on Union or Member States law which shall be proportionate to the aim pursued, respect the essence of the right to data protection and provide for suitable and specific measures to safeguard the fundamental rights and interests of the data subject’.</p> <p>To check the quality of care (clinical audit): Article 9(2)(h) – ‘processing is necessary for the purpose of preventative...medicine...the provision of health or social care or treatment or the management of health or social care systems and services...’</p>
<b>Recipient or categories of recipients</b> of the processed data	For medical research the data will be shared with NIHR Clinical Research Network, North East and North Cumbria. For national clinical audits which check the quality of care the data will be shared with NHS Digital.
<b>Rights to object and the national data opt-out</b>	<p>You have a right to object under the GDPR and the right to ‘opt-out’ under the national data opt-out model. The national data opt-out model provides an easy way for you to opt-out of:</p> <p>information that identifies you being used or shared for medical research purposes and quality checking or audit purposes.</p> <p>Please visit <a href="http://www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters">www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters</a> if you wish to opt-out.</p>
<b>Right to access and correct</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You have the right to access your medical record and have any errors or mistakes corrected. Please speak to a member of staff</li> </ul>

	<p>or look at our 'subject access request' policy on the practice website – <a href="http://www.ravenscar.gpsurgery.net">www.ravenscar.gpsurgery.net</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are not aware of any circumstances in which you will have the right to delete correct information from your medical record; although you are free to obtain your own legal advice if you believe there is no lawful purpose for which we hold the information and contact us if you hold a different view.</li> </ul>
<b>Retention period</b>	<p>GP medical records will be kept in line with the law and national guidance. Information on how long records are kept can be found at: <a href="https://digital.nhs.uk/article/1202/Records-Management-Code-of-Practice-for-Health-and-Social-Care-2016">https://digital.nhs.uk/article/1202/Records-Management-Code-of-Practice-for-Health-and-Social-Care-2016</a> or speak to the practice.</p>
<b>Right to complain</b>	<p>You have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner's Office. If you wish to complain follow this link <a href="https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/">https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/</a> or call the helpline <b>0303 123 1113</b></p>