

# Wigton Group Medical Practice

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Dear Patient

The practice now has the ability to share some information from your medical records with other health service providers. Such information is limited and called a 'shared record'.

In Cumbria there are two types of 'shared records'. There is a local one for use only within Cumbria and a second national one. Information about shared records was sent to all households in North Cumbria earlier this year. If you returned your form choosing to 'opt out', your records will now reflect this. You can however change your mind either way at any time.

In addition to the shared record facility, in the very near future the Health and Social Care Information Centre will be extracting data from medical records as part of the Care Data Programme.

For your information, I have given a brief description below of each method of data sharing/extraction.

## **Local Shared Record**

Medical records are increasingly being stored on computers. If you give permission, the healthcare professionals you visit in the North Cumbria area can view your shared record or a relevant section of it on a new computer system. This is done through a secure NHS network, not the internet.

Your shared record will contain a summary of your most recent health record which includes information such as:

- Your recent diagnosis and test results
- What allergies you have
- What medications and treatment you currently receive

By allowing access to your shared record, you can ensure that healthcare professionals treating you have the most up to date and accurate information about your overall health and current treatments. This will allow healthcare staff to give you better advice and provide safer and more effective care. It will help to ensure that mistakes are avoided and can also reduce the need for you to give different health services the same information repeatedly.

Each time a healthcare professional you visit wants to view your shared record, you will be asked directly for your permission.

If you wish to opt out of this service please contact Lauren Bragg on 016973 42254 or email [Lauren.Bragg@gp-a82045.nhs.uk](mailto:Lauren.Bragg@gp-a82045.nhs.uk).

## **The Summary Care Record**

The Summary Care Record is available all over the country to enable healthcare professionals to gain access to your records to help provide patients with better care and service. The records are very similar to the local shared records as described above. You can also choose to opt out of this service and can inform us by email to: [Lauren.Bragg@gp-a82045.nhs.uk](mailto:Lauren.Bragg@gp-a82045.nhs.uk). Alternatively you can speak to Lauren on 016973 42254 or you can request and complete an 'opt out' form from the surgery reception desk.

## **Care Data Programme**

Confidential information from your medical records can be used by the NHS to improve the services offered so we can provide the best possible care for everyone.

This information, along with your postcode and NHS number but not your name is sent to a secure system where it can be linked with other health information. This allows those planning NHS services or carrying out medical research to use information from different parts of the NHS in a way which does not identify you. If you are happy for your information to be used in this way you do not have to do anything. However if you have any concerns about this or wish to prevent this from happening, please contact Lauren Bragg either by email: [Lauren.Bragg@gp-a82045.nhs.uk](mailto:Lauren.Bragg@gp-a82045.nhs.uk) or by phone on 016973 42254.

We have leaflets available at the surgery about sharing this information. Please feel free to call in to collect them. I'm that sorry we can't include them in this posting as the cost to do so is prohibitively expensive. If you have internet access, you may wish to view the following sites for more information.

[www.nhscarerecords.nhs.uk](http://www.nhscarerecords.nhs.uk)

[www.nhs.uk/caredata](http://www.nhs.uk/caredata)

[www.hscic.gov.uk](http://www.hscic.gov.uk)

Thank you taking the time to read this letter and its important contents. If you are unable to find the answers to your questions please contact either Lauren Bragg or myself and we will do our best to assist.

Yours sincerely

**Mrs Lynn Singleton**

**Practice Manager**

**Email: [Lynn.Singleton@gp-a82045.nhs.uk](mailto:Lynn.Singleton@gp-a82045.nhs.uk)**