

## **Important new information about the use of your personal records by the NHS**

### **How information about you helps us to provide better care**

A new secure NHS IT system will be in place at the end of October 2013 which will take data from GP records for use by other organisations. It is important that the NHS can use patient information for research and to improve the services offered so we can provide the best possible care for everyone. Some of this is statistical and cannot be linked to individual patients, but in some cases it may include patient confidential data. This will be linked to data from other sources such as hospitals and community services to provide a full picture of the care of individual patients.

Patients' names will not be used, but postcodes and NHS numbers will, as they allow for comparisons across different areas. This information will be 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.

This new scheme is called **care.data** and you can find more information about this in the attached care **Patient Leaflet** and the **Frequently Asked Questions** provided by NHS England or at [www.nhs.uk/caredata](http://www.nhs.uk/caredata)

### **What can I do if I don't want my information shared?**

You have a choice. If you are happy for your information to be used in this way you do not have to do anything.

If you do not want your information shared beyond your GP practice, you can:

- Opt to not have any identifying information shared outside your GP practice, other than when required by law, e.g. in a public health emergency;
- Opt to allow the NHS to use information about you for their own purposes, but not to pass it on to any other organisation. This option will be applied to any information about you from any NHS source, including hospitals;
- Or you can opt for both of these choices – this will give you the greatest amount of security but will prevent the NHS from using helpful information for future health service planning.

Please contact the Medical Centre if you are not happy for your information to be shared, and we can make a note in your medical record.

### **What is the University Medical Centre doing to inform patients of this change?**

To make sure that as many patients as possible know about the care.data scheme and have the opportunity to make a choice, we are taking the following steps:

- Ensuring all staff are aware of the programme
- Posters and leaflets in the surgery
- Publish Information Information on the Practice website
- Frequently asked questions available in the surgery and on the website

If you would like to opt out please write a letter requesting this. It would also be beneficial to you to print off and complete the following consent form.

**[Consent Form](#)** (Opens PDF file)

**Please note that at present this scheme is under review by the Department of Health following concerns raised by individuals, professional bodies and politicians.**

**GP-led clinical commissioning groups in four parts of the country, known as pathfinder areas, are helping to develop the care.data programme. The programme will be rolled out in participating GP practices in the CCG areas of Blackburn with Darwen, Somerset, West Hampshire and Leeds North, West and South and East. Pathfinder feedback will be used to refine materials for the national roll out.**