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

Medical research

John Tasker House 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:

- Clinical Practice Research Datalink (CPRD)
- Relevant Research Study Team for studies that you may be eligible for. These studies are approved by the North Thames Clinical Research Network and funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and your participation in such studies needs your explicit consent.

You have the right to object to your identifiable information being used or shared for medical research purposes. Please speak to the practice if you wish to object.
Checking the quality of care - national clinical audits

John Tasker House 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.

| **Data Controller contact details** | John Tasker House Surgery  
| 56 New Street,  
| Great Dunmow,  
| Essex,  
| CM6 1BH  
| Tel: 01371 872121  
| E-mail: taskerhousejohn@nhs.net |

| **Data Protection Officer contact details** | Jane Marley  
| E-mail: jane.marley@nhs.net |

| **Purpose of the processing** | Medical research and to check the quality of care which is given to patients (this is called national clinical audit). |

| **Lawful basis for processing** | 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)  
| 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’.  
| 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 State 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’.  
| 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...’ |

| **Recipient or categories of recipients of the processed data** | For medical research the data will be shared with CPRD and relevant study teams discussed under the approval of the North Thames CRN and the NIHR.  
For national clinical audits which check the quality of care the data will be shared with NHS Digital. |

| **Rights to object and the national data opt-out** | 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/](https://www.hra.nhs.uk/information-about-patients/) (which covers health and care research); and [https://understandingpatientdata.org.uk/what-you-need-know](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 apply your national data opt-out choice. Our organisation is not currently able to apply your national data opt-out choice to any confidential patient information we may use or share with other organisations for purposes beyond your individual care.

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**Right to access and correct**

- You have the right to access your medical record and have any errors or mistakes corrected. Please speak to a member of staff or look at our ‘subject access request’ policy on the practice website.

- 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.
| Retention period | 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: [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) or speak to the practice. |
| Right to complain | You have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner’s Office. If you wish to complain follow this link [https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/](https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/) or call the helpline 0303 123 1113 |