

Sheepcot Medical Centre



Dr Alan Jackson
Dr Adnan Saad
Dr. Thet Lwin
Dr. Anusha Dattani
Dr Nicola Rattan
Dr Haritha Kandala
Liz Lythaby – Business Manager
Teresa Batchelor – Practice Manager
Nichola Chamberlain – Deputy Practice Manager

6 Cunningham Way Lane Watford WD25 7NL
Tel: 01923 672451 / 675832
Fax: 01923 681404 - Secretaries
Fax: 01923 663663 – Reception
Website: www.sheepcotmedicalcentre.co.uk

SMC Privacy Notice

We understand how important it is to keep your personal information safe and secure and we take this very seriously. We have taken steps to make sure your personal information is looked after in the best possible way and we review this regularly.

Please read this privacy notice ('Privacy Notice') carefully, as it contains important information about how we use the personal and healthcare information we collect on your behalf.

1. WHY WE ARE PROVIDING THIS PRIVACY NOTICE

We are required to provide you with this Privacy Notice by Law. It explains how we use the personal and healthcare information we collect, store and hold about you. If you are unclear about how we process or use your personal and healthcare information, or you have any questions about this Privacy Notice or any other issue regarding your personal and healthcare information, then please do contact our **Data Protection Officer** (details below).

The Law says:

- A. We must let you know why we collect personal and healthcare information about you;
- B. We must let you know how we use any personal and/or healthcare information we hold on you;
- C. We need to inform you in respect of what we do with it;
- D. We need to tell you about who we share it with or pass it on to and why; and
- E. We need to let you know how long we can keep it for.

2. THE DATA PROTECTION OFFICER

The Data Protection Officer at the Surgery is Dr Jackson & Partners, they can be contacted either by email: E82096.sheepcotmedicalcentre@nhs.net or Telephone: 01923 672451 if:

- You have any questions about how your information is being held;
- If you require access to your information or if you wish to make a change to your information;
- If you wish to make a complaint about anything to do with the personal and healthcare information we hold about you;
- Or any other query relating to this Policy and your rights as a patient.

3. ABOUT US

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We, at the Sheepcot Medical Centre situated at 6 Cunningham Way, Watford, WD25 7NL, are a **Data Controller** of your information. This means we are responsible for collecting, storing and handling your personal and healthcare information when you register with us as a patient.

There may be times where we also process your information. That means we use it for a particular purpose and, therefore, on those occasions we may also be **Data Processors**. The purposes for which we use your information are set out in this Privacy Notice.

4. INFORMATION WE COLLECT FROM YOU

The information we collect from you will include:

- A. Your contact details (such as your name and email address, including place of work and work contact details);
- B. Details and contact numbers of your next of kin;
- C. Your age range, gender, ethnicity;
- D. Details in relation to your medical history;
- E. The reason for your visit to the Surgery;
- F. Medical notes and details of diagnosis and consultations with our GPs and other health professionals within the Surgery involved in your direct healthcare.

5. INFORMATION ABOUT YOU FROM OTHERS

We also collect personal information about you when it is sent to us from the following:

- A. A hospital, a consultant or any other medical or healthcare professional, or any other person involved with your general healthcare.
- B. Insurance Companies if related to your healthcare.
- C. Firearms Applications.
- D. Court Orders.
- E. Police Reports.
- F. Benefits Agencies.

6. YOUR SUMMARY CARE RECORD

Your summary care record is an electronic record of your healthcare history (and other relevant personal information) held on a national healthcare records database provided and facilitated by NHS England.

This record may be shared with other healthcare professionals and additions to this record may also be made by relevant healthcare professionals and organisations involved in your direct healthcare.

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You may have the right to demand that this record is not shared with anyone who is not involved in the provision of your direct healthcare. If you wish to enquire further as to your rights in respect of not sharing information on this record then please contact our Data Protection Officer.

To find out more about the wider use of confidential personal information and to register your choice to opt out if you do not want your data to be used in this way, please visit www.nhs.uk/my-data-choice.

Note if you do choose to opt out, you can still consent to your data being used for specific purposes. However, if you are happy with this use of information you do not need to do anything. You may however change your choice at any time.

7. WHO WE MAY PROVIDE YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION TO, AND WHY

Whenever you use a health or care service, such as attending Accident & Emergency or using Community Care Services, important information about you is collected to help ensure you get the best possible care and treatment. This information may be passed to other approved organisations where there is a legal basis, to help with planning services, improving care, research into developing new treatments and preventing illness. All of this helps in providing better care to you and your family and future generations. However, as explained in this privacy notice, confidential information about your health and care is only used in this way where allowed by law and would never be used for any other purpose without your clear and explicit consent.

We may pass your personal information on to the following people or organisations, because these organisations may require your information to assist them in the provision of your direct healthcare needs. It, therefore, may be important for them to be able to access your information in order to ensure they may properly deliver their services to you:

- A. Hospital professionals (such as doctors, consultants, nurses, etc);
- B. Other GPs/Doctors;
- C. Pharmacists;
- D. Nurses and other healthcare professionals;
- E. Dentists;
- F. Any other person that is involved in providing services related to your general healthcare, including mental health professionals.

8. OTHER PEOPLE WHO WE PROVIDE YOUR INFORMATION TO

- a. Commissioners.
- b. Clinical Commissioning Groups.

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- c. Local authorities.
- d. Community health services.
- e. CCG Pharmacy & Medicines Optimisation Teams - Sometimes your information will be used to identify whether you need particular support from us. Those involved in your care might look at particular 'indicators' (such as particular conditions) and contact you or take action for healthcare purposes. For example, this might be to prevent you from having to visit accident and emergency by supporting you in your own home or in the community. We will use automated technology to help us to identify people that might require support but ultimately, the decision about how or whether to provide extra support you is made by those involved in your care. Our Data Protection Officer will be happy to speak to you about this if you have concerns or objections.
- f. For the purposes of complying with the law e.g. Police, Solicitors, Insurance Companies.
- g. Anyone you have given your consent to, to view or receive your record, or part of your record. **Please note, if you give another person or organisation consent to access your record we will need to contact you to verify your consent before we release that record. It is important that you are clear and understand how much and what aspects of, your record you give consent to be disclosed.**
- h. **Extended Access** – we provide extended access services to our patients which means you can access medical services outside of our normal working hours. In order to provide you with this service, we have formal arrangements in place with the Clinical Commissioning Group and with other practices whereby certain key “**hub**” practices offer this service on our behalf for you as a patient to access outside of our opening hours. This means, those key “**hub**” practices will have to have access to your medical record to be able to offer you the service. Please note to ensure that those practices comply with the law and to protect the use of your information, we have very robust data sharing agreements and other clear arrangements in place to ensure your data is always protected and used for those purposes only.
The key **Hub** practices are as follows: Vine House Surgery, Garston Medical Centre, Abbotswood Surgery, Callowland Surgery, Manor View Practice, Attenborough Surgery, South Oxhey Surgery, Suthergrey House Surgery, Consulting Rooms, Upton Road Surgery, Cassio Surgery, The Elms Surgery, Chorleywood Health Centre, Baldwins Lane Surgery, New Road Surgery, Gade Surgery, Bridgewater House Surgery.
- i. **Data Extraction by the Clinical Commissioning Group** – the clinical commissioning group at times extracts medical information about you, but the information we pass to them via our computer systems **cannot identify you to them**. This information only refers to you by way of a code that only your practice can identify (it is pseudo-anonymised). This therefore protects you from anyone who may have access to this information at the Clinical

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Commissioning Group from **ever** identifying you as a result of seeing the medical information and we will **never** give them the information that would enable them to do this.

There are good reasons why the Clinical commissioning Group may require this pseudo-anonymised information, these are as follows:

- To assess the quality of data coding
- To review the efficiency of commissioned services
- To provide anonymised data to Public Health England, for statistical purposes

9. ANONYMISED INFORMATION

Sometimes we may provide information about you in an anonymised form. If we do so, then none of the information we provide to any other party will identify you as an individual and cannot be traced back to you.

If you do not wish your data to be included in this process (even though it is in a format which does not directly identify you) you can choose to opt-out. In this case, please inform the Receptionist who will apply an opt-out code to your record to ensure that your information is not included.

10. YOUR RIGHTS AS A PATIENT

The Law gives you certain rights to your personal and healthcare information that we hold, as set out below:

A. Access and Subject Access Requests

You have the right to see what information we hold about you and to request a copy of this information.

If you would like a copy of the information we hold about you please email our Data Protection Officer. We will provide this information free of charge however, we may in some **limited and exceptional** circumstances have to make an administrative charge for any extra copies if the information requested is excessive, complex or repetitive.

We have one month to reply to you and give you the information that you require. We would ask, therefore, that any requests you make are in writing and it is made clear to us what and how much information you require.

B. Online Access

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You may ask us if you wish to have online access to your medical record. However, there will be certain protocols that we have to follow in order to give you online access, including written consent and production of documents that prove your identity.

Please note that when we give you online access, the responsibility is yours to make sure that you keep your information safe and secure if you do not wish any third party to gain access.

C. Correction

We want to make sure that your personal information is accurate and up to date. You may ask us to correct any information you think is inaccurate. It is very important that you make sure you tell us if your contact details including your mobile phone number, email or address has changed.

D. Removal

You have the right to ask for your information to be removed however, if we require this information to assist us in providing you with appropriate medical services and diagnosis for your healthcare, then removal may not be possible.

E. Objection

We cannot share your information with anyone else for a purpose that is not directly related to your health, e.g. medical research, educational purposes, etc. We would ask you for your consent in order to do this however, you have the right to request that your personal and healthcare information is not shared by the Surgery in this way. Please note the Anonymised Information section in this Privacy Notice.

F. Transfer

You have the right to request that your personal and/or healthcare information is transferred, in an electronic form (or other form), to another organisation, but we will require your clear consent to be able to do this.

11. THIRD PARTIES MENTIONED ON YOUR MEDICAL RECORD

Sometimes we record information about third parties mentioned by you to us during any consultation. We are under an obligation to make sure we also protect that third party's rights as an individual and to ensure that references to them which may breach their rights to confidentiality, are removed before we send any information to any other party including yourself. Third parties can include: spouses, partners, and other family members.

12. HOW WE USE THE INFORMATION ABOUT YOU

We use your personal and healthcare information in the following ways:

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- A. when we need to speak to, or contact other doctors, consultants, nurses or any other medical/healthcare professional or organisation during the course of your diagnosis or treatment or on going healthcare;
- B. when we are required by Law to hand over your information to any other organisation, such as the police, by court order, solicitors, or immigration enforcement.

We will never pass on your personal information to anyone else who does not need it, or has no right to it, unless you give us clear consent to do so.

13. LEGAL JUSTIFICATION FOR COLLECTING AND USING YOUR INFORMATION

The Law says we need a **legal basis** to handle your personal and healthcare information.

CONTRACT: We have a contract with NHS England to deliver healthcare services to you. This contract provides that we are under a legal obligation to ensure that we deliver medical and healthcare services to the public.

CONSENT: Sometimes we also rely on the fact that you give us consent to use your personal and healthcare information so that we can take care of your healthcare needs.

Please note that you have the right to withdraw consent at any time if you no longer wish to receive services from us.

NECESSARY CARE: Providing you with the appropriate healthcare, where necessary. The Law refers to this as ‘protecting your vital interests’ where you may be in a position not to be able to consent.

LAW: Sometimes the Law obliges us to provide your information to an organisation (see above).

14. SPECIAL CATEGORIES

The Law states that personal information about your health falls into a special category of information because it is very sensitive. Reasons that may entitle us to use and process your information may be as follows:

PUBLIC INTEREST: Where we may need to handle your personal information when it is considered to be in the public interest. For example, when there is an outbreak of a specific disease and we need to contact you for treatment, or we need to pass your information to relevant organisations to ensure you receive advice and/or treatment;

CONSENT: When you have given us consent;

VITAL INTEREST: If you are incapable of giving consent, and we have to use your information to protect your vital interests (e.g. if you have had an accident and you need emergency treatment);

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DEFENDING A CLAIM: If we need your information to defend a legal claim against us by you, or by another party;

PROVIDING YOU WITH MEDICAL CARE: Where we need your information to provide you with medical and healthcare services

15. HOW LONG WE KEEP YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION

We carefully consider any personal information that we store about you, and we will not keep your information for longer than is necessary for the purposes as set out in this Privacy Notice.

16. UNDER 16s

There is a separate privacy notice for patients under the age of 16, a copy of which may be obtained on request.

17. IF ENGLISH IS NOT YOUR FIRST LANGUAGE

If English is not your first language you can request a translation of this Privacy Notice which we will endeavour to provide. Please contact our Data Protection Officer.

18. COMPLAINTS

If you have a concern about the way we handle your personal data or you have a complaint about what we are doing, or how we have used or handled your personal and/or healthcare information, then please contact our Data Protection Officer.

However, you have a right to raise any concern or complaint with the UK information regulator, at the Information Commissioner's Office: <https://ico.org.uk/>.

19. OUR WEBSITE

The only website this Privacy Notice applies to is the Surgery's website. If you use a link to any other website from the Surgery's website then you will need to read their respective privacy notice. We take no responsibility (legal or otherwise) for the content of other websites.

20. COOKIES

The Surgery's website uses cookies. For more information on which cookies we use and how we use them, please see our Cookies Policy.

21. SECURITY

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We take the security of your information very seriously and we do everything we can to ensure that your information is always protected and secure. We regularly update our processes and systems and we also ensure that our staff are properly trained. We also carry out assessments and audits of the information that we hold about you and make sure that if we provide any other services, we carry out proper assessments and security reviews.

22. TEXT MESSAGING AND CONTACTING YOU

Because we are obliged to protect any confidential information we hold about you and we take this very seriously, it is imperative that you let us know immediately if you change any of your contact details.

We may contact you using SMS texting to your mobile phone in the event that we need to notify you about appointments and other services that we provide to you involving your direct care, therefore you must ensure that we have your up to date details. This is to ensure we are sure we are actually contacting you and not another person.

If you choose to share your mobile No and/or email with other family members we as a Surgery cannot take responsibility of what information is seen.

23. WHERE TO FIND OUR PRIVACY NOTICE

You may find a copy of this Privacy Notice in the Surgery's reception, on our website, or a copy may be provided on request.

24. CHANGES TO OUR PRIVACY NOTICE

We regularly review and update our Privacy Notice. This Privacy Notice was last updated on 10/02/2020.

Notice under Regulation 3(4) of the Health Service (Control of Patient Information) Regulations 2002 (COPI), which were made under sections 60 (now section 251 of the NHS Act 2006) and 64 of the Health and Social Care Act 2001.

As you will be aware, the health and social care system is taking extensive action to manage and mitigate the spread and impact of the current outbreak of Covid-19.

All GP practices whose systems are supplied by EMIS are required under Regulation 3(4) of COPI to release primary care patient data, for the purposes set out in Regulation 3(1) of COPI for purposes related to the outbreak of Covid-19. Under these arrangements, NHS England has directed EMIS to

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create a linked dataset using personal data from all GP practice records processed by EMIS with data about patients who have been diagnosed and hospitalised with Covid-19 infection.

This linked dataset will be pseudonymised and made available within a secure data processing environment to a small group of researchers, under contract to NHS England, from Oxford University and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to support data analysis that might identify medical conditions and medications that affect the risk or impact of Covid-19 infection.

The researchers will not be able to access identifiable patient information and any data they extract from the linked dataset will be fully anonymised / aggregated.

NHS England and EMIS have entered a data processing agreement to ensure that appropriate controls are in place to protect personal data. If you need any additional information or questions you are advised to contact: england.igpolicyteam@nhs.net.

Annex

Regulation 3(1) of COPI Purposes related to the outbreak of Covid-19 include, but are not limited to, the following:

- understanding Covid-19 and risks to public health, trends in Covid-19 and such risks, and controlling and preventing the spread of Covid-19 and such risks;
- identifying and understanding information about patients or potential patients with or at risk of Covid-19, information about incidents of patient exposure to Covid-19 and the management of patients with or at risk of Covid-19 including: locating, contacting, screening, flagging and monitoring such patients and collecting information about and providing services in relation to testing, diagnosis, self-isolation, fitness to work, treatment, medical and social interventions and recovery from Covid-19;

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- understanding information about patient access to health services and adult social care services and the need for wider care of patients and vulnerable groups as a direct or indirect result of Covid-19 and the availability and capacity of those services or that care;
- monitoring and managing the response to Covid-19 by health and social care bodies and the Government including providing information to the public about Covid-19 and its effectiveness and information about capacity, medicines, equipment, supplies, services and the workforce within the health services and adult social care services;
- delivering services and information to patients, clinicians, the health services and adult social care services workforce and the public about and in connection with Covid-19, including the provision of information, fit notes and the provision of health care and adult social care services; and

research and planning in relation to Covid-19.

UPDATE FROM LMC LAW REGARDING PRIVACY NOTICES

Back in March 2020 we provided Beds & Herts LMC with some information to circulate to Practices in respect of their (patient) Privacy Notices.

This information related to the notice issued in response to the COVID-19 pandemic by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care under the *Health Service (Control of Patient Information) Regulations 2002* (COPI) requiring organisations to process confidential patient information for the purposes set out in Regulation 3(1) of the COPI.

The notice is due to expire on 30th September 2020 but a further notice was issued on 29th July 2020 which extends the deadline to 31st March 2021. This further notice also adds 'processing to support NHS Test and Trace' as a COVID-19 purpose.

When we originally provided the information we suggested that Practices should add the information by way of an 'alert box' at the top of their Privacy Notices.

In line with this extension, we have now revised the original information and suggest Practices remove what they have in their 'alert box' and replace it with the following:

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Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and your information

The ICO recognises the unprecedented challenges the NHS and other health professionals are facing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ICO also recognise that 'Public bodies may require additional collection and sharing of personal data to protect against serious threats to public health.'

The Government have also taken action in respect of this and on 20th March 2020 the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care issued a notice under Regulation 3(4) of the Health Service (Control of Patient Information) Regulations 2002 requiring organisations such as GP Practices to use your information to help GP Practices and other healthcare organisations to respond to and deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please note that this notice has now been revised and extended by a further notice from 29th July 2020 until 31st March 2021.

In order to look after your healthcare needs during this difficult time, we may urgently need to share your personal information, including medical records, with clinical and non clinical staff who belong to organisations that are permitted to use your information and need to use it to help deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. This could (amongst other measures) consist of either treating you or a member of your family and enable us and other healthcare organisations to monitor the disease, assess risk and manage the spread of the disease. Additionally, the use of your information is now required to support NHS Test and Trace.

*Please be assured that we will only share information and health data that is **necessary** to meet yours and public healthcare needs.*

The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care has also stated that these measures are temporary and will expire on 31st March 2021 unless a further extension is required. Any further extension will be provided in writing and we will communicate the same to you.

Please also note that the data protection and electronic communication laws do not stop us from sending public health messages to you, either by phone, text or email as these messages are not direct marketing.

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It may also be necessary, where the latest technology allows us to do so, to use your information and health data to facilitate digital consultations and diagnoses and we will always do this with your security in mind.

If you are concerned about how your information is being used, please contact our DPO using the contact details provided in this Privacy Notice.