

SHARING YOUR INFORMATION WITH HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PROFESSIONALS

Helping everyone give you the
best possible care



Northamptonshire
Health and Social Care
Community

YOUR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE RECORDS CONTAIN INFORMATION RECORDED BY PROFESSIONALS WHO ARE INVOLVED IN YOUR CARE.



This information might be details of your appointments, assessments, medications, or anything that would help a health or social care professional to support you.

It's a good idea for everyone to make that information available in case they need care or help in an emergency – particularly people with certain health conditions or illnesses.

PROFESSIONALS CAN PROVIDE BETTER CARE...

...and work more effectively and efficiently if relevant information about you can be shared among agencies providing your support. Sharing your records means health and social care workers have your most up to date information. It also means you don't have to repeatedly provide the same facts, have unnecessary tests and it would prevent you being given medicine that you're allergic to.



DUTY OF CARE

We will always **seek your consent** before we check another organisation's records and files holding your information.

The only exception is our 'duty of care', which means that confidentiality can be over-ridden. This would happen if, for instance, there are safeguarding concerns about someone's welfare or in a medical emergency and consent cannot be obtained. Only authorised health and social care staff involved in your care would be able to access your information, and only specifically to be able to do their job, or to help another professional to give you care.



IF YOU HAVE CHOSEN NOT TO OPT OUT...

Information held on your records may be securely shared with appropriate professionals who are working with you to provide support, so your information is available when it is needed most.

However, health and social care professionals will still ask for your **explicit consent** to view certain information when treating and supporting you, which means that you are always presented with an option to agree or disagree.

YOU CAN BE SURE THAT...



systems hold your information safely and securely



staff are trained in the importance of handling your information confidentially



access to your records on systems can be restricted, if they are sensitive or private, which means they will not be visible in another care setting



information is only shared with organisations that have the necessary safe and secure systems and processes that ensure confidential information is protected



your information is not sold, or passed on, to organisations for commercial or marketing purposes



you can decide what information is not to be shared between professionals or organisations.



For further information about this, please go to northamptonshirehealthcarerecords.org.uk

