





## Patient Data – Care.data extraction from GP Surgeries

Dear Patients,

You may have become aware of a Government initiative to extract data from patient records for the purposes of health service planning. The practice has received numerous enquiries and the main points have been summarised for your perusal:

-  GPs are legally required, under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, to disclose data to NHS Digital (formerly the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC)) for the purposes of their care.data programme unless an individual patient has objected. This means, as a practice, we do not have a choice.
-  Practices have an obligation to raise awareness in patients so you understand these changes and that you, the patient, has an opportunity to object and how to do so (please see below).
-  Practices were not informed of the actual extraction start date.
-  NHS England and NHS Digital distributed leaflets to every household in England in 2014. Patients may also obtain further information on the NHS Choices website where they will find a lead article with signposting to further information.

### Patients who have opted out of Summary Care Record (SCR)

Care.data and Summary Care Record are two quite different initiatives:

#### Summary Care Record

-is an electronic health record that provides healthcare staff with rapid access to essential information about a patient in order to provide them with direct care and treatment anywhere in the country.

#### Care.data

-extracts data from all care settings to ensure commissioners and providers obtain a more complete and balanced picture of care being delivered to NHS patients to address variations in the quality, efficiency and equity of health service provision.

### Opt-out of Summary Care Record does NOT opt patients out of Care.data

Please advise the practice in writing of any objection you may have to any data being extracted from our record marking your correspondence clearly with the words 'opt-out'.

Note:

Some unidentifiable data will still be extracted from all records regardless of patient choice.