These choices include the right to opt out of data leaving your GP, as well as the right to prevent your data being used for purposes beyond your direct care (the ‘National Data Opt-out’).

If you have children, Secretary of State Matt Hancock requires you to post documents to NHS officials who will decide whether you have proved to them that they are your children.

If you do nothing, i.e. if you do not opt out, then your and your children’s medical information will be extracted and copied.

Once data is released, it does not get returned or deleted. So, while you can change your mind at any time, your opt out will not cover any data that has already been copied.

Take action

[Step 0: Check your friends, family and colleagues know about this.]

Step 1: To protect the most sensitive information held by your GP, simply fill in the form on the right. Cut out the form and post or drop it in to your GP practice, marked for the attention of your GP. If you wish to make a choice for your children or other members of your family for whom you are responsible at the same time, you can add their details on an additional sheet of paper.

Step 2: To express your wishes for the information held by care providers other than your GP, or official bodies like NHS Digital, the official process to “Manage your choice” is described at:


Step 2.5: If you have children, NHS Digital requires you to post a form and multiple documents about your child.

Dear Doctor,

I am writing to give notice of my current wishes regarding the reuse of my medical records, and the records of those for whom I am responsible, for any purpose other than our direct medical care.

My wishes are as follows:

[Tick only the box relevant to your choice below]

‘OPT OUT’

I DO NOT CONSENT to the reuse of my/our records for any purpose other than our medical care. Please ensure my dissent is recorded by whatever means possible, which includes adding the following codes to my/our records:

1. GP data, or ‘Dissent from secondary use of GP patient identifiable data’ code (Read v2: 9Nu0 or CVT3: XaZ89)

2. Step 2 is no longer available via your GP*

   NHS Digital requires you to complete a separate (possibly postal) process - see left.

3. Turn sheet over and fill in details on reverse.

*To protect your non-GP data, you are now required to use the NHS Digital process at:


For your dependents, this may involve a paper form and several forms of ID documentation.

If you previously opted out, and you have changed your mind, and you do wish for your data to be used for purposes beyond your direct medical care, you must also use the NHS Digital process.
I am aware of the implications of this request, understand that it will not affect the care I receive and will notify you should I change my mind.

Signature: __________________________________________

Full name: __________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________

____________________________________________________

Postcode: __________________________________________

Date of birth: _______________________________________

NHS number (if known): ______________________________

Additional patient(s) details:

Please take whatever steps necessary to ensure my choices about the following person’s confidential personal information are respected, and record my choices on their behalf by whatever means possible.

Dependant’s full name: __________________________________

Address (if different): ________________________________

____________________________________________________

Postcode: __________________________________________

Date of birth: _______________________________________

NHS number (if known): ______________________________

Details of other family members whose choices I wish you to record are provided on a separate sheet, attached to this form.

Please note: this is not about the Summary Care Record (SCR), which is for the purpose of your direct care. Opting out of the SCR does not mean that you have automatically opted out of other data sharing.

Uses of patients’ data for purposes beyond their direct care:

The National Data Opt-out covers data leaving:

• NHS Digital
• the Cancer Registry (the database of all cancer patients)
• other Disease Registries (date undecided)
• Clinical Practice Research Datalink (CPRD)
• by 2020, hospitals and other care providers

The National Data Opt-out does not protect you from:

• commercial sale of HES by NHS Digital
• lifelong linked medical histories being sold by NHS Digital
• onward release of data by non-DH Bodies

Please read — you may need to act

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

ABOUT YOUR MEDICAL RECORDS

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optConfidential recommends http://nhsdatasharing.info
- a website by Dr Neil Bhatia, GP, which provides a more comprehensive view of NHS data sharing.

Your data is shared by your CCG, NHS Digital and other parts of the Government, such as MHRA and Public Health England. More information on this is provided at https://www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters/ but it does not tell you how your medical records have been copied, why, or the outcomes from those actions.

Opting out will have no effect on your medical care.
You can change your mind at any point, as new information is made available to you.

Copies of this leaflet for you to give to friends and family can be downloaded from:
https://medconfidential.org/how-to-opt-out/

medConfidential
KEEP OUR SECRETS