

# Privacy Information and Notice

## Privacy Policy – Your Data

In order to comply with data protection legislation, this notice has been designed to inform you of what you need to know about the personal information we process. This is your assurance that we are complying with our legal obligation to you and a good opportunity for you to understand or exercise your information rights. We are legally required to tell you:

- What personal information we use
- Why we need your personal information
- The lawful basis for processing your personal information i.e. legitimate reasons for collecting, keeping, using and sharing it
- How we use, store, protect and dispose of your personal information
- How long we keep it for and who we may share it with
- About your information rights
- How to report a complaint or concern.

## Lawful Basis for Processing your Personal Information

We do not rely on consent to use your personal information as a 'lawful basis for processing' regarding using your information for healthcare instead follow guidance issued by the British Medical Association (BMA).

We rely on the following specific provisions under Articles 6 (Lawful Processing) and 9 (Processing of Special Categories of Personal Data) of the GDPR:

### For your personal information

Article 6 (1c) 'processing is necessary for compliance with a legal obligation...'

Article 6 (1e) '...a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller.'

### For your special category information

Article 9 (2b) '...for the purposes of carrying out the obligations and exercising specific rights of the controller or of the data subject in the field of employment and social security and social protection law...'

Article 9 (2h) 'processing is necessary for the purposes of preventive or occupational medicine, for the assessment of the working capacity of the employee, medical diagnosis, the provision of health or social care or treatment or the management of health or social care systems and services...'

Article 9 (2i) 'processing is necessary for reasons of public interest in the area of public health, such as protecting against serious cross-border threats to health or ensuring high standards of quality and safety of health care and of medicinal products or medical devices...'

Please note: You do have the right to say 'NO' to our use of your personal information but this may have an impact on our ability to provide appropriate care or services. Please speak to a member of the Practice or our Data Protection Officer.

We never use your personal information for advertising, marketing and public relations or insurance purposes without your consent.

## Requests for Information

Please complete a Request for Access to Records form on our website. We will require proof of identity before we can disclose any personal information.

## Report Complaint or Concern

We try to meet the highest standards when processing personal information. You should let us know when we get something wrong.

We employ an independent Data Protection Officer (DPO). The role our DPO is to examine our information handling practices and ensure we operate within the law.

These services are provided by Umar Sabat from IG-Health. He can be contacted on [umar.sabat@ig-health.co.uk](mailto:umar.sabat@ig-health.co.uk). He can only assist with complaints about your personal information. All other complaints should be directed to Ruth Walters, Director of Quality & Assurance, Tower Hamlets GP Care Group. You can contact us by emailing [thgpcg.complaintsandfeedback@nhs.net](mailto:thgpcg.complaintsandfeedback@nhs.net) or by telephoning 020 3961 8584.

## Retention and Disposal of Personal Information

Your personal information may be written down (manual), digitised or held on computers (electronic) centrally within or outside of the Practice. These may be paper records, scans, photographs, slides, CCTV images, microform (i.e. fiche/film), audio, video, emails, computerised records on IT systems, or scanned documents etc. which we process securely in accordance with data protection legislation and store in conjunction with the Records Management Code of Practice 2016.

## Keeping your Personal Information Safe

We are committed to keeping your information secure and have operational policies, procedures and technical measures in place to protect your information whether it is in a hardcopy, digital or electronic format.

We are registered to the Information Commissioner's Office: registration number: ZA240426  
Mandatory training and regular audits are in place to ensure that only authorised personnel with the absolutely necessary need to know your personal information can use it.

When there are data protection breaches (for example - unauthorised access, inappropriate use, failure to secure and keep personal information secure or accurate), these are reported and investigated, with appropriate action (disciplinary, legal, lessons learned, re-training etc.) taken.

## Sharing Personal Information

We may need to share your personal information with another organisation e.g. NHS organisations, health and social care organisations, public bodies (Social Services, Probation Service, Police, Regulatory Authorities) or third party providers commissioned to process personal information on our behalf.

This is because of our duty to share which is equally as important as our duty of confidentiality. We may also share your personal information for planning services across the NHS. This is vital to delivering better healthcare and improving our services.

You have the right to say no and to opt out of or restrict this sharing. Your right to opt out for reasons other than direct care (e.g. planning and research purposes) is managed through the National Data Opt-Out Programme (search online or contact NHS Digital on 0300 303 5678 to find out more).

## Your Information Rights

You have the right to:

- Be informed about the processing of your personal information by the Practice (done through this notice)
- Access the information we hold about you (paper, digital or electronic copies)
- Ask the Practice to correct or complete your personal information
- Ask the Practice to erase your personal information under certain circumstances, if the Practice does not have a lawful basis to process it
- Ask the Practice to restrict the processing of your personal information under certain circumstances
- Ask the Practice to move, copy and transfer your personal information which you have provided to the Practice, in a portable, commonly-used/machine readable format and securely, for your own purpose
- Ask us not to process your personal information
- Ask us not to use your personal information for public interests, direct marketing, automated decision-making, profiling, research or statistical purposes
- Receive a response to your access or change request within a calendar month.

## Your Personal Information

When we say personal information, we are referring to any information that can identify a specific person, either on its own or together with other information. The obvious examples are name, address and date of birth; however, this could include other forms for data, such as email address, car registration, specific physical feature, NHS number, pictures, images and so forth.

Most of the personal information we process is confidential or sensitive because of the nature of our business activities (health and social care). This could be used in a discriminatory way and is likely to be of a private nature, so greater care is needed to ensure this is processed securely. Confidential or sensitive information includes the racial or ethnic origin of the data subject, political opinions, religious beliefs or other beliefs of a similar nature, Trade Union membership, physical or mental health or condition, sexual life, commission, alleged commission of or proceeding for any offence.

Anonymised data is not personal information. This is any information that cannot reasonably identify you, so it cannot be personal, confidential or sensitive. Anonymisation requires the removal of personal information that might identify you. This process allows personal information to be converted.

The personal information we collect may be used for any of the following specific purposes:

- Health care for patients – diagnosis, treatment and referral
- Accounting, financial management and auditing
- Education and training
- Consultancy and Advisory services
- Human resources and staff administration
- Crime prevention and prosecution
- Health administration and services management
- Business activity information and databank administration
- Contractual arrangements for data processing by third parties
- Occupational Health referrals
- Research, national surveys
- Security services e.g. CCTV monitoring, confidentiality audits.

Without your personal information, we cannot:

- Direct, manage and deliver the health care you may require
- Ensure we have accurate and up to date information to assess and provide what you require
- Provide the appropriate level of assistance or adequate guidance
- Refer you to a specialist or another service
- Protect the general public or promote public health
- Manage, develop or improve our services
- Investigate complaints or proceed with legal actions for claims
- Employ you to join our workforce
- Procure products and services
- Commission business activities
- Comply with a court order
- Comply with regulatory requirements
- Meet some of our legal obligations
- Compile statistics to review our performance
- Educate and train our workforce
- Undertake clinical trials and research studies you have consented to
- Complete occupational health checks you have consented to
- Keep you and other service users safe on our premises.

Scan the code below with your phone to view this Privacy Information and Notice on our website:  
[www.gpcaregroup.org](http://www.gpcaregroup.org)

