

Practice Privacy Notice Policy 2026

1 Introduction

1.1 Policy statement

This policy outlines how this organisation will provide information to patients regarding how patient data is processed for the provision of direct care, research, audit and screening programmes.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the organisation's UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) Policy, Data Quality Policy and Record Retention Policy.

UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and GDPR – The Perfect Practice eLearning is available in the [HUB](#).

1.2 Status

In accordance with the [Equality Act 2010](#), we have considered how provisions within this policy might impact on different groups and individuals. This document and any procedures contained within it are non-contractual, which means they may be modified or withdrawn at any time. They apply to all employees and contractors working for the organisation.

2 Compliance with regulations

2.1 Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) became law on 24 May 2016. This was a single EU-wide regulation on the protection of confidential and sensitive information. It entered into force in the UK on the 25 May 2018, repealing the Data Protection Act (1998).

Following Brexit, the GDPR became incorporated into the [Data Protection Act 2018 \(DPA18\)](#) at Part 2, Chapter 2 titled The UK GDPR.

This organisation will ensure that any personal data is processed in accordance with [Article 5 of the UK GDPR](#) and information about how this is done will be provided to applicants in a format that is compliant with [Article 12 of the UK GDPR](#).

2.2 Communicating privacy information

This organisation must provide information to applicants about how their data is processed in the form of a Practice Privacy Notice.

The Information Commissioner's Office has provided a [privacy notice checklist](#) that can be used to support the writing of this privacy notice. A privacy notice template is available at [Annex A](#). Note the template was sourced from the [BMA](#).

2.3 What data will be collected?

The following data will be collected:

- Patient details (name, date of birth, NHS number)
- Address and NOK information
- Medical notes (paper and electronic)
- Details of treatment and care, including medications
- Results of tests (pathology, X-ray, etc.)
- Any other pertinent information

2.4 National data opt-out programme

[NHS England](#) explains that the national data opt-out allows patients to choose if they do not want their confidential patient information to be used for purposes beyond their individual care and treatment. NHS E provide [detailed guidance](#) for opt-outs, including those patients in secure settings. Additional information is also available for patients at [Make a choice about sharing data from your health records](#).

This organisation will ensure they are compliant with the national data opt-out policy by following [this guidance](#).

2.5 General practice data for planning and research collection

NHS E advise that the [General Practice Data for Planning and Research \(GDPR\) programme](#) has been designed to help the NHS:

- Monitor the long-term safety and effectiveness of care
- Plan how to deliver better health and care services
- Prevent the spread of infectious diseases
- Identify new treatments and medicines through health research

NHS E [About the GDPR programme](#) and [Looking after your data](#) provides additional information on data sharing.

2.6 Use of artificial intelligence

Artificial Intelligence (AI) use is the biggest and fastest moving change to computing in recent years and is becoming commonplace across all industries including primary care. With this being new technology, there is a requirement for additional governance measures to ensure its use is safe and does not expose personal data about both patients and staff to any unnecessary risks.

Examples of AI use include:

- Generation of business meeting notes and any action points
- Support for clinicians during consultations to compile and document medical records
- Generation of summaries of various team meetings where our service users and patient cases are discussed

- Support for clinicians to summarise and code hospital documentation received

For further information, including how this organisation will comply with the [Data Protection Act 2018](#) and UK GDPR, refer to the organisation's Privacy Notice – Artificial Intelligence.

3 Further information

3.1 Available resources

The following resources are available for staff at this organisation:

- [National Data Guardian for Health and Care – review of data security, consent and opt-outs](#)
- [National data opt-out – data protection impact assessment](#)
- [National data opt-out training](#)
- [Guidance for health and care staff](#)
- [Supporting your patients – information and resources](#)
- [Information for GP practices](#)

3.2 Notifications for patients

[Annex B](#) – Social media/website information update

[Annex C](#) – Patient SMS and telephone message information

[Annex D](#) – Opt-out guidance for staff

Annex A – Practice privacy notice

Introduction

At Vale Medical Group, we have a legal duty to explain how we use any personal information we collect about you at the organisation. This is in both electronic and paper format.

Why do we have to provide this privacy notice?

We are required to provide you with this privacy notice by law. It provides information about how we use the personal and healthcare information we collect, store and hold about you. If you have any questions about this privacy notice or are unclear about how we process or use your personal information or have any other issue regarding your personal and healthcare information, then please contact our Data Protection Officer mlcsu.ig@nhs.net

The main things the law says we must tell you about what we do with your personal data are:

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

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) became law on 24 May 2016. This was a single EU-wide regulation on the protection of confidential and sensitive information. It entered into force in the UK on the 25 May 2018, repealing the Data Protection Act (1998). Following Brexit, the GDPR became incorporated into the [Data Protection Act 2018 \(DPA18\)](#) at Part 2, Chapter 2 titled The UK GDPR.

For the purpose of applicable data protection legislation (including but not limited to the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA2018) and Part 2 the UK GDPR).

Using your information

We will use your information so that we can check and review the quality of care we provide. This helps us improve our services to you.

- We will share relevant information from your medical record with other health or social care staff or organisations when they provide you with care. For example, your GP will share information when they refer you to a specialist in a hospital or your GP will send details about your prescription to your chosen pharmacy.
- Healthcare staff working in A&E and out of hours care will also have access to your information. For example, it is important that staff who are treating you in an emergency know if you have any allergic reactions. This will involve the use of your Summary Care Record. For more information see NHS E [Summary Care Record](#) or alternatively speak to this organisation.

You have the right to object to information being shared for your own care. Please speak to this organisation if you wish to object. You also have the right to have any mistakes or errors corrected.

Registering for NHS care

- All patients who receive NHS care are registered on a national database (NHS Spine). The Spine is held and maintained by NHS England, a national organisation which has legal responsibilities to collect NHS data.
- More information can be found at [NHS England - Spine](#)

Identifying patients who might be at risk of certain diseases

- Your medical records will be searched by a computer programme so that we can identify patients who might be at high risk from certain diseases such as heart disease or unplanned admissions to hospital. This means we can offer patients additional care or support as early as possible.
- This process will involve linking information from your GP record with information from other health or social care services you have used. Information which identifies you will only be seen by this organisation.

Safeguarding

- Sometimes we need to share information so that other people, including healthcare staff, children or others with safeguarding needs, are protected from risk of harm. These circumstances are rare, and we do not need your consent or agreement to do this.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

- Prior to using AI, a full data protection impact assessment has been compiled, and any AI use will comply with the strict UK data protection laws that also includes UK GDPR.
- Clinicians may use AI software during consultations to support both the compiling and documenting of a patients clinical record. There are two main types of personal data that will be processed during a consultation, including the patient's name, contact details, medical history, diagnosis, treatment information, and any other information shared during consultations. There may also be an audio recording of the clinician, although this is to detail their professional identifiers, such as name and title. Should you not wish the clinician to use any AI during your consultation, please make them aware of this.
- For further information, a privacy notice that specifically supports AI use is available upon request.

OPENSAFELY

NHS England has been directed by the government to establish and operate the OpenSAFELY COVID-19 Service and the OpenSAFELY Data Analytics Service. These services provide a secure environment that supports research, clinical audit, service evaluation and health surveillance for COVID-19 and other purposes.

Each GP practice remains the controller of its own GP patient data but is required to let approved users run queries on pseudonymised patient data. This means identifiers are removed and replaced with a pseudonym.

Only approved users are allowed to run these queries, and they will not be able to access information that directly or indirectly identifies individuals.

Patients who do not wish for their data to be used as part of this process can register a type 1 opt out with their GP.

Here you can find additional information about OpenSAFELY.

Medical research

- This organisation shares information from medical records to support medical research when the law allows us to do so, for example to learn more about why people get ill and what treatments might work best. We will also use your medical records to carry out research within the organisation.
- The use of information from GP medical records is very useful in developing new treatments and medicines; medical researchers use information from these records to help to answer important questions about illnesses and disease so that improvements can be made to the care and treatment patients receive.
- We may share information with medical research organisations with your explicit consent or when the law allows.
- You have the right to object to your identifiable information being used or shared for medical research purposes. Please speak to the organisation if you wish to object.

Checking the quality of care – national clinical audits

- This organisation contributes to national clinical audits so that healthcare can be checked and reviewed. Information from medical records can help doctors and other healthcare workers to measure and check the quality of care that is provided to you.
- The results of the checks or audits can show where organisations are doing well and where they need to improve. These results are also used to recommend improvements to patient care.
- Data is sent to NHS England, a national body with legal responsibilities to collect data.
- The data will include information about you, such as your NHS Number and date of birth, and information about your health which is recorded in coded form – for example the code for diabetes or high blood pressure.
- We will only share your information for national clinical audits or checking purposes when the law allows.
- For more information about national clinical audits see the Healthcare Quality Improvements Partnership.
- You have the right to object to your identifiable information being shared for national clinical audits. Please contact the organisation if you wish to object.

We are required by law to provide you with the following information about how we handle your information:

Data Controller	Long Clawson Medical Practice lcmp.admin@nhs.net 01664 822214
Data Protection Officer	mlcsu.ig@nhs.net
Purpose of the processing	To give direct health or social care to individual patients. An example is, when a patient agrees to a referral for direct care, such as to a hospital, relevant information about the patient will be shared with the other healthcare staff to enable them to give appropriate advice, investigations, treatments and/or care. To check and review the quality of care. (This is called audit and clinical governance). Medical research and to check the quality of care which is given to patients (this is called national clinical audit).
Lawful basis for processing	These purposes are supported under the following sections of the GDPR: Article 6(1)(e) ‘...necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority...’; and Article 9(2)(h) ‘necessary for the purposes of preventative 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...’ The following sections of the GDPR mean that we can use medical records for research and to check the quality of care (national clinical audits): Article 6(1)(e) – ‘processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller’. For medical research: there are two possible Article 9 conditions. Article 9(2)(a) – ‘the data subject has given explicit consent...’ OR

	Article 9(2)(j) – ‘processing is necessary for... scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes in accordance with Article 89(1) based on Union or Member States law which shall be proportionate to the aim pursued, respect the essence of the right to data protection and provide for suitable and specific measures to safeguard the fundamental rights and interests of the data subject’. Healthcare staff will also respect and comply with their obligations under the common law duty of confidence.
Recipient or categories of recipients of the processed data	The data will be shared with: ● healthcare professionals and staff in this surgery; ● local hospitals; ● out of hours services; ● diagnostic and treatment centres; ● or other organisations involved in the provision of direct care to individual patients. For national clinical audits which check the quality of care the data will be shared with NHS England.
Rights to object and the national data opt-out	You have the right to object to information being shared between those who are providing you with direct care. This may affect the care you receive – please speak to the practice. You are not able to object to your name, address and other demographic information being sent to NHS England. This is necessary if you wish to be registered to receive NHS care. You are not able to object when information is legitimately shared for safeguarding reasons. In appropriate circumstances it is a legal and professional requirement to share information for safeguarding reasons. This is to protect people from harm. The information will be shared with the local safeguarding service. The national data opt-out model provides an easy way for you to opt-out of information that identifies you being used or shared for medical research purposes and quality checking or audit purposes. Please contact the practice if you wish to opt-out. Further information is available from NHS England.
Right to access and correct	You have the right to access your medical record and have any errors or mistakes corrected. Please speak to a member of staff or look at our Access to Medical Records Policy.

	We are not aware of any circumstances in which you will have the right to delete correct information from your medical record; although you are free to obtain your own legal advice if you believe there is no lawful purpose for which we hold the information and contact us if you hold a different view.
Retention period	Records will be kept in line with the law and national guidance. Information on how long records are kept can be found in the Records Management Code of Practice .
Right to complain	In the unlikely event that you are unhappy with any element of our data-processing methods, do please contact the Practice Manager in the first instance. If you feel that we have not addressed your concern appropriately, you have the right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). Further details, visit https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/ and select "Make a complaint" or telephone: 0303 123 1113.
Data we get from other organisations	We receive information about your health from other organisations who are involved in providing you with health and social care. For example, if you go to hospital for treatment or an operation the hospital will send us a letter to let us know what happens. This means your GP medical record is kept up-to date when you receive care from other parts of the health service.

Annex B – Social media and website information

Using your health data for planning and research

You can decide whether you wish to have your information extracted and there are two main options available to you.

Option 1:

Type 1 opt-out applies at organisational level and means that your medical record is not extracted from the organisation for any purpose other than for direct patient care. You can opt-out at any time. Opting out will mean that no further extractions will be taken from your medical record.

For a Type 1 Opt-out, you need to contact the organisation by phone, email or post to let us know that you wish to opt-out. Further information is available [here](#).

Option 2:

The National Data Opt-out (NDO-O) allows data to be extracted by NHS England for its lawful purposes but it cannot share this information with anyone else for research and planning purposes. You can opt-out at any time.

NDO-O – you need to inform NHS England. Unfortunately, this cannot be done by this organisation for you. You can opt in or out at any time and complete this by any of the following methods:

- **Online service** – You will need to know your NHS number or your postcode as registered at this organisation via [Make your choice about sharing data from your health records](#)
- **Telephone service** 0300 303 5678 which is open between 0900 – 1700 Monday to Friday
- **NHS App** – For use by patients aged 13 and over. The app can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play
- **“Print and post”** [Manage your choice](#)

Photocopies of proof of the applicant’s name (e.g., passport, UK driving licence etc.) and address (e.g., utility bill, payslip etc.) need to be sent with the application.

It can take up to 14 days to process the form once it arrives at NHS, PO Box 884, Leeds. LS1 9TZ

Further information on NDO-O is available [here](#).