

## **Advice for patients/public with queries about the NHS Care Records Service**

At the moment your health record is not shared it will be held on a number of different computer systems and on paper. In the local area the NHS Care Records Service has not yet gone live. This is expected to happen over approx the next two years.

There will be a number of pilot sites across the country where summary health records will be shared in the first instance. A robust public information programme in these early sites will inform patients in the areas affected that they have a defined and realistic period of time to review their proposed summary record by viewing it on HealthSpace (a secure site on the internet) or by asking to see a printed copy provided by their GP should they wish to.

At that point patients will be invited to correct or amend their record and offer explicit consent for their record to be shared or to opt out of sharing should they wish to.

After a realistic period, it will be assumed that those patients who have chosen not to view their summary care record are giving implied consent for it to be shared in appropriate settings.

Currently the procedure by which you can opt out is being defined. However, you will be given notice as to when your record will be shared and you can then make the decision at that point whether you wish your record to be shared or not.

People will always have concerns about the potential implications of new technology and we would like to assure you that these concerns were considered very carefully during the design stages of the new systems, on which there was wide consultation. To address these concerns, the NHS Care Record Guarantee document has been written. This sets out how information is recorded, used and how records are shared and how they will be kept safe and confidential.

The new NHS Care Records Service systems have been designed specifically to support patient confidentiality and to restrict access only to those who need to see parts of your records in order to provide you with care. They will be more secure than existing systems, which were not designed specifically with confidentiality in mind.