

# BERRY LANE MEDICAL CENTRE

## CHANGES TO SUMMARY CARE RECORD FOR COVID-19 AND PRIVACY NOTICE

Due to the unprecedented challenges that the NHS and we, Berry Lane Medical Centre face due to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, there is a greater need for public bodies to require additional collection and sharing of personal data to protect against serious threats to public health.

NHS England have advised that some changes are being made to the data stored in the Summary Care Record (SCR)

The main impact is that some additional information is being added to the basic data stored in a patients SCR. At present a small set of information is already available – on allergies and medications - in the Core Summary Care Record (SCR) which every patient has, unless they have decided to opt-out.

The additional information is:

- details of the management of long-term conditions
- medications
- immunisations
- care plan information
- significant medical history, past and present

Currently this would require the patients explicit consent but under the new COPI notice this data will be included automatically.

All patients will still have the option to opt out of the additional information being added or to opt out of having an SCR altogether.

### **Privacy Notice**

All organisations that process personal data are required to have in place a Privacy Notice setting out basic details of the processing. This should include information such as why the data is being processed, how it is stored, the security measures in place to protect it and how long it will be held. In addition the rights of the data subject, as defined by the Data Protection Act should be included, such as their right to opt out of processing.

Berry Lane already has a general Privacy Notice

To cover the changes being made to the SCR data processing NHS England have published a Supplementary Privacy Notice which is detailed below.

*(This Privacy Notice is to run alongside our standard Practice Privacy Notice)*

## **SCR coronavirus (COVID-19) Supplementary Privacy Notice**

**20 April 2020:**

Information for patients explaining how health and social care organisations may use your *Summary Care Record information within the health and social care system to protect you and others during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.*

### **Your information and responding to coronavirus (COVID-19)**

The health and social care system is facing significant pressures due to the coronavirus outbreak. Health and care information is essential to deliver care to individuals, to support health and social care services and to protect public health. Information will also be vital in researching, monitoring, tracking and managing the outbreak. In the current emergency, it has become even more important to share health and care information across relevant organisations.

This notice describes how GPs and other health and social care organisations may use your information within the health and social care system to protect you and others during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak with regard to your Summary Care Record.

### **Summary Care Records**

All patients registered with a GP have a Summary Care Record, unless they have chosen not to have one. The information held in your Summary Care Record gives registered and regulated healthcare professionals, away from your usual GP practice, access to information to provide you with safer care, reduce the risk of prescribing errors and improve your patient experience.

Your Summary Care Record contains basic (Core) information about allergies and medications and any reactions that you have had to medication in the past.

Some patients, including many with long term health conditions, previously have agreed to have Additional Information shared as part of their Summary Care Record. This Additional Information includes information about significant medical history (past and present), reasons for medications, care plan information and immunisations.

### **Change to information held in your Summary Care Record**

In light of the current emergency, the Department of Health and Social Care has removed the requirement for a patient's prior explicit consent to share additional Information as part of the Summary Care Record.

This is because the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care has issued a legal notice to healthcare bodies requiring them to share confidential patient information with other healthcare bodies where this is required to diagnose, control and prevent the spread of the virus and manage the pandemic. This includes sharing Additional Information through Summary Care Records, unless a patient objects to this.

If you have already expressed a preference to only have Core information shared in your Summary Care Record, or to opt-out completely having a Summary Care Record, these preferences will continue to be respected and this change will not apply to you. For everyone else, the Summary Care Record will be updated to include the Additional Information. This change of requirement will be reviewed after the current coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

### **Why we have made this change**

In order to look after your health and care needs, health and social care bodies may share your confidential patient information contained in your Summary Care Record with clinical and non-clinical staff in other health and care organisations, for example hospitals, NHS 111 and out of hours organisations. These changes will improve the healthcare that you receive away from your usual GP practice.

### **Your rights in relation to your Summary Care Record**

Regardless of your past decisions about your Summary Care Record preferences, you will still have the same options that you currently have in place to opt out of having a Summary Care Record or opt back in to allow sharing of Additional Information.

### **You can exercise these rights by doing the following**

#### **Choose to have a Summary Care Record with all information shared.**

This means that any authorised, registered and regulated health and care professionals will be able to see a detailed Summary Care Record, including Core and Additional information, if they need to provide you with direct care.

#### **Choose to have a Summary Care Record with Core information only.**

This means that any authorised, registered and regulated health and care professionals will be able to see limited information about allergies and medications in your Summary Care Record if they need to provide you with direct care.

#### **Choose to opt-out of having a Summary Care Record altogether.**

This means that you do not want any information shared with other authorised, registered and regulated health and care professionals involved in your direct care. You will not be able to change this preference at the time if you require direct care away from your GP practice. This means that no authorised, registered and regulated health and care professionals will be able to see information held in your GP records if they need to provide you with direct care, including in an emergency.

This notice may be amended at any time, so please review it frequently. The date at the top of this page will be amended each time this notice is updated.