**Tennant Street Medical Practice**

**Patient Opt-Out information**

**What is confidential patient information?**

Confidential patient information is when 2 types of information from your health records are joined together.

The 2 types of information are:

* something that can identify you
* something about your health care or treatment

For example, your name joined with what medicine you take.

Identifiable information on its own is used by health and care services to contact patients and this is not confidential patient information.

**How we use your confidential patient information**

**Your individual care**

We may use your confidential patient information to help with your treatment and care. For example, when you visit your GP they may look at your records for important information about your health.

**Research and planning**

Confidential patient information might also be used to:

* plan and improve health and care services
* research and develop cures for serious illnesses

**Your choice**

You can stop your confidential patient information being used for research and planning. Find out [how to make your choice](https://www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters/manage-your-choice).

If you’re happy with your confidential patient information being used for research and planning you do not need to do anything.

Any choice you make will not impact your individual care.

**Patients who can choose to set a national data opt-out**

Anyone who has an NHS number and has registered for care or treatment with the NHS in England can set an opt out if they wish to, even if they don’t currently live in England.

**Patients who can set an opt-out choice for themselves**

If a patient is aged 13 or over, they can set their own opt-out choice using the online service, the telephone service, the NHS App, or 'print-and-post', completing a form by hand and sending it in.

**Patients who can set an opt-out choice on behalf of someone else**

Someone can set an opt-out choice on behalf of a patient, by proxy, if:

* they are the parent or legal guardian of the patient, who is a child aged 12 or under
* they have a formal legal relationship with the patient, for example they have legal power of attorney or are a court-appointed deputy

They can only do this using the 'print and post' service.

**Changing an opt-out choice**

An opt-out choice can be changed at any time by the patient or their proxy.

**Using the online service**

Patients can set their own opt-out choice by visiting [www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters](https://www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters/) using any internet enabled device. So that the service can confirm their identity, they will need to provide:

* their NHS number, or their postcode (as registered with their GP practice)
* their mobile phone number or email address provided previously at a GP practice or other NHS service

The online service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**Using the NHS App**

Patients who have registered for the [NHS App](https://digital.nhs.uk/services/nhs-app) using NHS login can set a national data opt-out using the app.

**Using the telephone service**

Patients can set their own opt-out choice by calling 0300 303 5678.

Calling this number should cost no more than calls to a normal landline number.

The telephone service is available 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, apart from on English bank or public holidays.

**Using 'print-and-post'**

If a patient is unable to use the online or telephone service, or would prefer not to, they can compete a paper form and post it.

The form can be downloaded from [www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters](https://www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters/) or requested by calling the telephone service on 0300 303 5678**.**

**Patients in prison or secure settings**

There are special arrangements for patients in prison or other similar secure settings, known as detained and secure estates. A health and care professional can help register a patient’s opt-out choice. See [Guidance for detained and secure estates](https://digital.nhs.uk/services/national-data-opt-out/guidance-for-health-and-care-staff#guidance-for-detained-and-secure-estates).

**Confirmation**

During the process of setting their opt-out choice, the patient can choose their preferred communication method:

* email
* SMS text
* letter

Once the process has been completed, the patient will receive a confirmation that their national data opt-out choice has been set.

**More information**

See [Setting an opt-out](https://digital.nhs.uk/services/national-data-opt-out/operational-policy-guidance-document/setting-an-opt-out) in the national data opt-out operational policy guidance for full details.

If you choose to stop your confidential patient information being used for research and planning, your data might still be used in some situations.

**When required by law**

If there's a legal requirement to provide it, such as a court order.

**When you have given consent**

If you have given your consent, such as for a medical research study.

**When there is an overriding public interest**

In an emergency or in a situation when the safety of others is most important. For example, to help manage contagious diseases like meningitis and stop them spreading.

**When information that can identify you is removed**

Information about your health care or treatment might still be used in research and planning if the information that can identify you is removed first.

**When there is a specific exclusion**

Your confidential patient information can still be used in a small number of situations. For example, for official national statistics like a population census.