

Still have questions?

I've made my decision – what do I do next?

You don't need to do anything if you are happy for your GP to share your medical details with other medical professionals.

At some point in the future, if you should need medical treatment away from your GP surgery e.g. at the Walk-In Centre, the clinician at the point of care will ask if they have your permission to access the relevant part of your Connected Care record.

If you give consent, they will then be able to view an extract of your record held by your GP. Details of any treatment will be sent electronically to your GP, who will update your record with the information. If you opt out, they will still treat you but without knowing your medical history.

Will I be able to access the information being held about me?

Yes, you can ask to see your record (please note that some Practices may charge a small administration fee).

An opt-out form is available to download as a PDF from:

www.newburyanddistrictccg.nhs.uk

www.southreadingccg.nhs.uk

www.nwreadingccg.nhs.uk

www.wokinghamccg.nhs.uk

Information about Connected Care

This leaflet explains the purpose of Berkshire West Connected Care and how it works. It also gives information to help you decide whether you want to opt out.

Why have Connected Care?

Substantial work is taking place to modernise the NHS, including the introduction of shared patient records. The aim of Connected Care is to ensure that anyone treating you has the basic information about you.

This is especially important when care is unplanned, urgent or required during evenings and weekends. The information in your record could save you and the NHS time, but could also one day be life-saving.

How it works

Connected Care is an initiative where local medical professionals can search and read an accurate, up-to-date view of your data directly from the original record held at the GP Practice. Previously they would have to wait for an extract of records to be sent from the GP Practice during surgery hours, causing a delay in providing medical treatment or administering medication, unaware of any potentially vital facts.

The benefits

A single record holds the most current information - because the local doctor, nurse or specialist is seeing your medical history as it is held by your own GP, only one copy of the record exists. New information e.g. any treatment received, will be sent over to your GP, who will then update your record to maintain its accuracy. At no point are copies of your record created, copied or kept once the enquiry has been completed.

Access to important facts - Connected Care enables medical staff to quickly access crucial information, which can include:

- What medications you are taking, especially important if they are many and complex
- Any allergies or details of any medication that hasn't agreed with you in the past
- A health condition that means you shouldn't have certain medicines

Peace of mind – across Berkshire West, anyone treating you will have accurate and essential information, even if you are distressed or can't remember details.

If you don't have Connected Care

The NHS will do its best to provide you with safe, efficient care, whether you have opted in or opted out of Connected Care. Please be assured that the NHS and the Department of Health are committed to honouring your decision and doing all they can to ensure you get the best healthcare possible.

Remember that you can change your mind at any time.

Risks and protections

- **Disclosing information** – only staff approved to access patient data can log on to the system, allowing the NHS to track precisely who has done or seen what. They will also only be able to see information appropriate to their role.
- **Accuracy** – it is critical that medical information is accurate and all data going into Connected Care will have to meet strict quality controls.
- **A parent or guardian can request to opt out children under 16** but ultimately it is the GP's decision whether to create the records or not, because of their duty of care to the child. If you are the parent or guardian of a child under 16 and feel that they are able to understand, then you should make this information available to them.