

You can choose whether your confidential patient information is used for research and planning



How your data is used

Your health and care information is used to improve your individual care. It is also used to help us research new treatments, decide where to put GP clinics and plan for the number of doctors and nurses in your local hospital. Wherever possible we try to use data that does not identify you, but sometimes it is necessary to use your confidential patient information

What is confidential patient information?

Confidential patient information identifies you and says something about your health, care or treatment. You would expect this information to be kept private. Information that only identifies you, like your name and address, is not considered Confidential patient information and may still be used: for example, to contact you if your GP practice is merging with another.

Who can use your confidential patient information for research and planning?

It is used by the NHS, local authorities, university and hospital researchers, medical colleagues and pharmaceutical companies researching new treatments.

Making your data opt-out choice

You can choose to opt out of sharing your confidential patient data for research and planning. There may still be times when your confidential patient information is used: for example. During the epidemic where there might be a risk to you or to other people's health. You can also still consent to take part in a specific research project

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What should you do next?

You do not need to do anything if you are happy about how your confidential patient information is used.

If you do not want your confidential information to be used for research and planning, you can choose to opt out securely or through a telephone service.

You can change your choice at any time.

To find out more or to make your choice visit nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters
or call 0300 303 5678