**National Data Opt out**

**National Data Opt Out**

In May 2018, the strict rules about how data can and cannot be used were strengthened. The NHS is committed to keeping patient information safe and always being clear about how it is used.

**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**

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

**Making your data opt-out choice**

You can choose to opt out of sharing your confidential patient information for research and planning. There may still be times when your confidential patient information is used: for example, during an 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.

**Will choosing this opt-out affect your care and treatment?**

No, your confidential patient information will still be used for your individual care.

Choosing to opt out will not affect your care and treatment. You will still be invited for screening services, such as screenings for bowel cancer.

**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 patient information to be used for research and planning, you can choose to opt out securely online or through a telephone service. You can change your choice at any time by visiting:

[**https://www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters/manage-your-choice/**](https://www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters/manage-your-choice/) *(this link will open in a new window - popups must be allowed)*

 or telephone 0300 303 567

**NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE TO HOW DATA IS STORED**

**EMIS – IS THE NAME OF THE PRACTICE’S CLINICAL COMPUTER SYSTEM** this is where you will see clinical staff entering information during your consultations and it is where items such as test results and hospital letters are stored for individual patients.  The practice has been notified of changes in the way patient data will be stored and details are posted below.

Notification of Data processing changes for EMIS Web GP Practices (Update)

The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care published his technology vision, “The Future of Healthcare”, which includes as one of its fundamental principles the concept of ‘Internet first’. In response to this driver there is a requirement in IT Futures, the framework which will be replacing GPSoC, for all systems vendors to adopt a cloud computing policy by July 2021.

EMIS has recently announced its future upgrade programme for EMIS Web to create a more modern, cloud based system with improved interoperability capabilities. They expect this to be a cornerstone that supports GPs and CCGs, facilitating integrated working (including Primary Care Networks) across primary, community, acute and social care. This will not be a ‘big bang’ change; rather it will be a progressive transition over the next few years so as not to disrupt your day to day working.

One key component of this strategy is to remove the reliance on EMIS’ existing hosted data centres and migrate (again, progressively and safely) to a state of the art cloud environment. EMIS has been working closely with NHS Digital to ensure clinical safety and Information Governance sign off, as well as contractual approvals, are all in place.

EMIS’ ongoing commitment to business continuity and to providing the highest level of service to our customers, means that we will be making changes to the way they store data in EMIS Web. With effect from 10th June 2019, EMIS will start storing EMIS Web data in a highly secure, third party cloud hosted environment, namely AmazonWeb Services (“AWS”). The data will remain in the UK at all times and will be fully encrypted both in transit and at rest. In doing this, there will be no change to the control of access to your data and the hosted service provider will not have any access to the decryption keys. AWS is one of the world’s largest cloud companies, already supporting numerous public sector clients (including the NHS), and it offers the very highest levels of security and support.

The first data that will be transferred is clinical documents and over time, other data will follow. Access to this information for interoperability and reporting does not change and all data remains under the control of the practice through the Data Sharing Module in EMIS Web.