

YOUR INFORMATION:

The staff at this practice record information about you and your health so that you can receive the right care and treatment. We need to record this information, together with the details of the care you receive, because it may be needed if we see you again.

We may use some of this information for other reasons, for example to help us to protect the health of the general public generally, to plan for the future, to train staff and to carry out medical and other health research for the benefit of everyone.

We are currently involved in research studies for which we provide anonymised information from patients notes. The risk of you being identified from this information is extremely low as all directly identifiable details (name, address, post code, NHS number, full date of birth) are removed from your notes before they are collected for research, and automated programmes to de-personalise any free text (non structured or coded data) are run after the information is collected.

Individual patient's records are added into a much larger anonymous database, containing records from millions of patients across the UK. This information is used by researchers outside this practice. The database to which we contribute anonymised records is known as The Health Improvement Network (THIN)¹ This data may be anonymously linked to other data, such as hospital data. This database is managed by a company outside of the NHS which does not have access to your personal details, only to anonymous medical records.

The data used are for research into such topics as drug safety, disease patterns, prescribing patterns, health economics and public health. Many of these studies provide useful information to medical staff on diseases, the use of drugs or outcomes of disease or treatment.

These studies may be performed by academic researchers or commercial companies amongst others. However, no researcher has

access to your full details such as your NHS number, name and address, initials of full date of birth. The researchers are not given information about the GP nor the practice name, address or postcode.

If you would like to opt-out of this data collection, please let your doctor or practice staff know and no data from your records will be collected for use in research. This will not affect your care in any way.

If anything to do with the research requires you to provide any additional information about yourself, you will be contacted to see if you are willing to take part: **You will not be identified in any published results.**