

A guide for patients



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Connecting your care for better and safer treatment

The way Northamptonshire's NHS and care providers use the information they hold about you is changing.

GPs, hospitals and other local providers of health and social care have a duty to keep complete, accurate and up-to-date information about your care to ensure you can receive the best possible treatment and support.

However, when these records need to be shared between different organisations this has previously had to be done via traditional methods such as secure post, fax or email, which can be slow and sometimes unreliable.

All this is changing in Northamptonshire as we introduce a new process co-ordinating your care records digitally, so any professional who's directly involved in your care can instantly access the information they need to support you. This is called the Northamptonshire Care Record.



What is the Northamptonshire Care Record?

The information held about you in the Northamptonshire Care Record is the same as that which is already held about you by your GP or anyone else involved in your care.

The difference is it will be accessible to health and care professionals instantly.

By modernising the way GPs, hospital specialists, nurses, social workers, psychologists, health visitors and other professionals access your records, we are making it much quicker and easier for you to get the best possible care.

All information held in the Northamptonshire Care Record is completely secure and can only be seen by those who are directly involved in your care.

You don't need to do anything – we want you to be aware of what's happening and why it's so important.



Who uses the Northamptonshire Care Record?

The Northamptonshire Care Record is a county-wide partnership of health and social care organisations – including GPs and hospitals – working together to provide you with better, safer and co-ordinated care. These organisations will include:

- Kettering General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust
- Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
- Northamptonshire GP practices
- East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust
- North Northamptonshire Council
- West Northamptonshire Council
- Northamptonshire Children's Trust



Who can see my information and what will be shared?

The information held about you in the Northamptonshire Care Record is strictly confidential and can only be accessed by clinical and care staff who are directly involved in your care and treatment.

The Northamptonshire Care Record contains relevant, up-to-date and important information about you to ensure you get the right treatment at the right time.

Examples of information that is shared include:

- Your name, address and NHS number to help identify you correctly
- Details of people involved in your care, appointments and visits
- Medicines you have been prescribed and details of medication reactions and allergies
- Test results, referrals, clinic letters and discharge information to ensure people caring for you have all the information they need to treat you

Certain sensitive information is never shared, for example sexual health information.



How does this help you?

To provide the best treatment and support, care professionals need access to the most up-to-date information about you in one place.

This information can be from a range of services including hospitals, community services and your GP practice. Sharing information between these services will allow those who are caring for you, especially when more than one professional is involved, to make better co-ordinated decisions and to work with you more effectively.

Connecting your care for...



Improved safety and quality of care

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Less repetition and time spent filling in forms



Quicker diagnosis and treatment



Fewer unnecessary clinical tests

Safer delivery of care in an emergency



Your information, your choice

If you are happy to share your medical information with those treating you, you do not need to do anything further.

You can choose to 'opt out' and not share your information if you wish. Opting out will mean that medical professionals may not always have access to your full medical record, including in the event of emergencies. If you still prefer your information not to be shared, please talk to your GP practice and submit a formal objection which will then be reviewed.

If you have previously opted out from sharing your information, you do not need to do so again.

Protecting your information

The Northamptonshire Care Record is a safe and secure system that has undergone robust risk assessments and testing to ensure it meets the technical and security requirements of Data Protection law as well as those of the NHS.

Your information will always be updated locally by the services and professionals that are supporting your direct care and it will only be accessed by them on a need-to-know basis – when it is needed for the purposes of providing you with care and treatment.





Contact details

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