



Changes to My Care Record in light of COVID-19 Response

We would like to make you aware that the *My Care Record* approach is being used to support additional uses of patient information during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The *My Care Record* [website](#) has been updated to reflect this change including a supplementary Privacy Notice [addendum](#) specifically for coronavirus (COVID-19).

In particular please note:

- Practices in additional regions (Bedfordshire, Mid and South Essex, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk) will share information from patient records specifically for the purposes of COVID-19 response. Some regions may start to do this before others.
- In addition to the list of partner organisations involved on the *My Care Record* website, the approach will cover information sharing for the purposes of COVID-19 response at other services in the East of England. For example, designated centres for the management of critically ill patients including the NHS Nightingale Hospital in London.
- Previous opt-outs (including National Data Opt-Out) are not valid in this situation.

In addition, please note that a change has been made to the way Summary Care Records are made available to support the response to coronavirus (COVID-19). Where a patient has not previously expressed a preference with regard to their Summary Care Record, both the core and additional information will be included in a patient's SCR by default. More information can be found on the NHS Digital website [here](#).

What do practices need to do?

- Please ensure that *My Care Record* information remains prominent on your website. The most recent text for practice websites can be found [here](#). If it is already well displayed, there is no need to take further action. If you would like to let your patients know about how *My Care Record* is supporting the response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, text is provided below.

We anticipate that the number of queries will be low, however, please contact your Data Protection Officer (DPO) if you have any questions.

- If there is a need to share information for the purposes of COVID-19 treatment or care, you should feel confident to do so. In addition to the normal legal basis provided by the General Data Protection Regulation, the Secretary of State has also issued Control of Patient Information (COP) notices to give health organisations and local authorities the security and confidence to share the data they need to respond to coronavirus (COVID-19). More information can be found [here](#).
- As previous opt-outs (including National Data Opt-Out) are not valid in this situation, if a patient who has previously objected to share their record is referred for treatment for COVID-19, the sharing-out setting may need to be temporarily amended on your clinical system.



Additional text for practice websites/communications below. The My Care Record [logo](#) and [website banner](#) can be used to support the information:

Our practice is part of the *My Care Record* approach which is supporting the work of health and care organisations across the East of England as they respond to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. For example, we are working to make sure doctors, nurses and co-ordination staff at places you may receive advice or treatment can see important information from your GP record. This could include NHS 111 or treatment centres such as the London NHS Nightingale Hospital. This will make it easier and faster for them to deliver effective care.

For more information, including the Privacy Notice, please visit the *My Care Record* [website](#).
