

Sharing your information to improve care

Frequently Asked Questions

In Barnsley, we are making sure whether you are visiting a GP, attending hospital, or being seen in the community or at home by a care professional, that everyone knows the care you need and how you want to be treated.

Your GP Practice has signed up to a new system which will enable health and social care professionals from outside of the GP practice directly involved in your care to view the most up-to-date information about you.

Why do you need to share my information?

So that health and social care professionals directly involved in your care have access to the most up-to-date information about you. This allows the professionals caring for you to more fully understand your needs and means you only have to tell your history once.

Information is already shared by phone and paper records. The new system simply allows this to happen more efficiently. It does this by enabling other health and social care services in Barnsley to view appropriate information from your GP medical record electronically.

What information will be shared?

Professionals providing your care will be able to view up-to-date, relevant health information held in your GP record such as:

- Some details about you (name, address etc)
- Your recent diagnosis and test results
- What allergies you have
- What medications and treatment you currently receive
- Any current or past illnesses
- Procedures and investigations you have had
- Blood pressure measurements
- Encounters and Referrals.

Which organisations are involved?

To begin with the system will be used in 'i-Heart Barnsley,' a new service providing flexible appointments with GPs and nurses (www.iheartbarnsley.org.uk). We hope to extend the system to other providers of health and care in Barnsley including hospitals, the ambulance service, the GP out of hours service, Barnsley Hospice, and social care.

Can I access my records?

Yes. Under the Data Protection Act 1998 you can request access to all information that organisations hold about you. Please contact the organisations directly to request the information.

Can anybody see my records?

No. Your health and social care records will still be confidential. Only professionals directly involved in your care can see your information through the system and they will only view your information with your permission (consent). We won't share your information with anyone who doesn't need it to provide treatment, care and support to you. Your details will be kept safe and won't be made public, passed on to a third party who is not directly involved in your care, or used for advertising.

How do I know my records are secure?

By law, everyone working in, or for, the NHS and adults' and children's social care must respect your privacy and keep your information safe. Your information is stored on secure computer systems connected on a private health & social care network.

Can the service be accessed by health and social care professionals outside of Barnsley?

No. The service is only available to the NHS and social care organisations in Barnsley Borough that have signed up to the system.

Can I opt out of my records being shared?

Yes you can – if you do not wish your information to be shared in this way please contact your GP Practice and they will make sure your record cannot be viewed through this system. Even if you don't opt out, no one will be able to look at your records unless you say yes. You will be asked to give your consent each time a health or care professional wants to view your record through this system.

We believe this system helps us to provide the best quality care and support for you. If all relevant health and social care professionals don't have access to the most appropriate information it could affect your care.