**Your electronic patient record & the sharing of information**

**Introduction**

Today, electronic records are kept in all the places where you receive healthcare. These places can usually only share information from your records by letter, email, fox or phone. At times, this can slow down your treatment and mean information is hard to access.

Your GP surgery, however, uses a unique computer system called SystmOne that allows the sharing of full electronic records across different healthcare related services.

We are telling you about this as you register with a new NHS care service so that you can think about your choices:

**You can choose to share your electronic record with other care service.**

**You can choose not to share your electronic record with other care services.**

**How is my decision recorded?**

SystmOne has two settings to allow you to control how your medical information is shared:

1. **Sharing OUT**

*This controls whether your information entered at this practice can be shared with other NHS services (i.e. made shareable)*

1. **Sharing IN**

*This controls whether information that has been made shareable at other NHS care services can be viewed by us (your GP surgery i.e. shared in).*

**How does this work?**

Imagine you are receiving care from 3 different NHS services: your GP, a District Nurse and a smoking clinic. You want your GP and nurse to share information with each other and you want both of them to know your progress at the smoking clinic. However you don’t want the smoking clinic to see any of your other medical information.

Your sharing settings would be:

**The GP can share information IN and OUT**

**The District Nurse can share IN and OUT**

**The smoking clinic can only share information OUT but not IN**

In due course you may be asked the following questions:

1. **Do you consent to the information that is recorded about you here being made available to other NHS care services that care for you and also use SystmOne?**

*If you answer* ***YES****, clinicians at other services that care for you and use SystmOne will be able to see the information recorded here. For example, a district nurse that visits you would be able to see the data entered by your GP.*

*If you answer* ***NO****, clinicians will be prevented from sharing the information entered here with other services caring for you.*

1. **Do you consent to allow this care service to view information about you that has been recorded at other services where you also receive care? (you must have separately consented for information to be ‘shared out’ of those services)**

*If you answer* ***YES****, this practice will be able to view information recorded on your patient record by other NHS services.*

*If you answer* ***NO****, this practice will not see any information recorded at any other NHS service (even if those services have the consent to share information out).*

**Note:** You can still request for individual entries in your patient record to be marked as ‘Private’. These will not be visible at any care service other than the one that recorded the information.

**Why is this necessary?**

These settings allow you to decide who can see the information on your electronic record. It also allows joined up are across different NHS settings which give the best care and service to you.

In some serious situations, for example if you are unconscious, clinicians will be able to access your electronic records without first asking your permission. Use of this method is monitored.

**Don’t forget:** These settings apply to an NHS service using SystmOne where you are currently receiving care. You can also change your sharing preferences at any time – just speak to a member of staff at the practice.

**What is SystmOne?**

SystmOne is a clinical computer system produced by a company called TPP. It lets NHS staff record patient information securely onto a computer. This information can then be shared with other clinicians so that everyone caring for you is fully informed about your medical history, including medication and allergies.

SystmOne is currently used in GP practices, Child Health Services, Community Services, Prisons, Hospitals, Urgent Care and Out of Hours Services, Palliative Care Services and many more.

**Useful Resources:**

[www.tpp-uk.com](http://www.tpp-uk.com)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-information-governance-review>

