

Data protection privacy notice for patients

In providing your dental care and treatment, we will ask for information about you and your health. Occasionally, we may receive information from other providers who have been involved in providing your care. This privacy notice describes the type of personal information we hold, why we hold it and what we do with it.

Information that we collect

We may collect the following information about you:

- Personal details such as your name, date of birth, national insurance number, NHS number, address, telephone numbers and email address
- Information about your dental and general health, including
 - Clinical records made by dentists and other dental professionals involved with your care and treatment
 - X-rays, clinical photographs, digital scans of your mouth and teeth, and study models
 - Medical and dental histories
 - Treatment plans and consent
 - Notes of conversations with you about your care
 - Dates of your appointments
 - Details of any complaints you have made and how these complaints were dealt with
 - Correspondence with other health professionals or institutions
- Details of the fees we have charged, the amounts you have paid and some payment details

Simon Locke and Paul Ewins are responsible for keeping secure the information about you that we hold.

Our data protection officer, Michael Waddington, ensures that the practice complies with data protection requirements to ensure that we collect, use, store and dispose of your information responsibly.

Those at the practice who have access to your information include dentists and other dental professionals involved with your care and treatment, and the reception staff responsible for the management and administration of the practice.

Our legal basis for holding this information is:

1. Contractual – We are required by our NHS Contract to hold and process certain data about our patients. E.g. Details of treatment provided; study models; photographs; X-Rays; Payment Records.
2. Legitimate Interests – We believe it is in your Legitimate Interests to have your recall notices and appointment reminders sent to you, by us.
3. Legal Obligation – We are required by HMRC to hold certain accounting and financial records for 7 years, e.g. details of any payments you have made. We also have a legal obligation to correspond with professional advisers.

How we use your information

To provide you with the dental care and treatment that you need, we require up-to-date and accurate information about you.

We will share your information with the NHS, Denplan and DPAS (the company who administrate our Dental Plan) in connection with your dental treatment.

We will seek your preference for how we contact you about your dental care. Our usual methods are telephone, email, SMS message or letter.

Sharing information

Your information is normally used only by those working at the practice but there may be instances where we need to share it – for example, with:

- Your doctor
- Another dentist or health professional who is caring for you
- A laboratory
- The hospital or community dental services or other health professionals caring for you
- NHS payment authorities
- The Department for Work and Pensions and its agencies, where you are claiming exemption or remission from NHS charges
- Private dental schemes of which you are a member.

We will only disclose your information on a need-to-know basis and will limit any information that we share to the minimum necessary.

In certain circumstances or if required by law, we may need to disclose your information to a third party not connected with your health care, including HMRC or other law enforcement or government agencies.

Keeping your information safe

We store your personal information securely on our practice computer system. Your information cannot be accessed by those who do not work at the practice; only those working at the practice have access to your information. They understand their legal responsibility to maintain confidentiality and follow practice procedures to ensure this.

We take precautions to ensure security of the practice premises, the practice filing systems and computers

We use high-quality specialist dental software to record and use your personal information safely and effectively. Our computer system has a secure audit trail and we back-up information routinely.

We use cloud computing facilities for storing some of your information. The practice has a rigorous agreement with our provider to ensure that we meet the obligations described in this policy and that we keep your information securely.

We keep patient records for adult patients for a minimum of 11 years and for child patients for either 11 years or until the child is 25 years of age, whichever is longer.

We will not keep records for longer than necessary and after they are no longer required, records will be shredded.

Access to your information and other rights

You have a right to access the information that we hold about you and to receive a copy. You should submit your request to the practice in writing or by email. We do not usually charge you for copies of your information; if we pass on a charge, we will explain the reasons.

You can also request us to

- Correct any information that you believe is inaccurate or incomplete. If we have disclosed that information to a third party, we will let them know about the change

- Erase information we hold although you should be aware that, for legal reasons, we may be unable to erase certain information (for example, information about your dental treatment)
- Stop using your information – for example, sending you reminders for appointments or information about our service
- Supply your information electronically to another dentist.

If you do not agree

If you do not wish us to use your personal information as described, you should discuss the matter with your dentist. If you object to the way that we collect and use your information, we may not be able to continue to provide your dental care.

If you have any concerns about how we use your information and you do not feel able to discuss it with your dentist or anyone at the practice, you should contact The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF (0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745).

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