

Important information about your
healthcare from NHS Wales



**Your health
information –
there when
it's needed**



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Your Individual Health Record

This leaflet tells you about something new. The Individual Health Record, which is being introduced in Wales to be used by NHS Wales' medical staff for your care.

The Individual Health Record does not form part of the English electronic summary care health record. In Wales, we have a different approach.

The Individual Health Record means your information can be shared with the local doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other medical staff who look after you, if you are ill and need their advice or assistance outside normal GP surgery hours, or in an emergency.

Why do I need an Individual Health Record?

Whenever you receive care or treatment in NHS Wales information is stored about you, usually on computers. As most NHS Wales computers can't 'talk to one another' the information held about you, for example at your GP practice, hasn't until now been available to other NHS Wales' staff providing care.

We know that information about your health is very valuable to doctors looking after you when you are unwell. It helps them make the best decisions about your care.

In time every GP practice in Wales will be invited to take part in this new service which is for your benefit. Your GP practice will have more information if you have any queries.

What's in the new record?

A summary of important information from your GP medical record, including:

- Your name, address and contact details
- Current medication
- Allergies or any adverse reactions
- Current problems or diagnosis

Who can look at my Individual Health Record?

Doctors and nurses working for the out of hours service can look at your Individual Health Record on a computer if they need to treat you when your GP surgery is closed. They must ask you if you agree to this before they look at your information.

In the future, a limited number of local staff in hospital emergency departments may also be able to look at your Individual Health Record. This will only be with your agreement.

If you are unconscious, NHS Wales' staff may look at your Individual Health Record without your agreement. This is so they can give you the best possible care.

There are strict controls to make sure that your personal information is protected, such as:

- allowing access only to a limited number of staff who are providing your care
- by recording and checking who has accessed your information

What if I'm not sure that I want an Individual Health Record?

If you have an Individual Health Record for use in out of hours or emergency care the person looking after you will ask your permission to look at your details at each and every consultation. You could if you wished refuse your permission by simply saying 'no'.

If you don't want an Individual Health Record tell your GP that you do not want your health information to be available outside the GP surgery for this type of care.



Do you need more information?

More information can be found on the NHS Direct Wales website www.nhsdirect.wales.nhs.uk or by ringing the NHS Direct Wales information line on **0845 4647**.

If you require a copy of this leaflet in large print, Braille, other formats or interpreted into another language, please contact the health information team at NHS Direct Wales on **0845 46 47**.