

## Contacting patients that have previously opted-out of information sharing

We have been asked to clarify whether patients that have opted-out of previous systems (namely IDCR) should be personally contacted via letter, presenting the opportunity to opt-out of Connecting your Care.

The advice is that ***no patient that has previously opted-out of other systems should be specifically contacted in relation to Connecting your Care*** for the following reasons:

- Using previous opt-out data (such as existing system coding) to identify patients who have opted-out of other information sharing systems could be seen as profiling and would therefore be in direct contravention to the Data Protection Act 2018
- Connecting your Care is a completely different system to other information sharing platforms. It will be used only for direct care and does not contribute to any systems associated with statistical data capture or analysis. The planned Privacy Notice Campaign meets any legal requirements in relation to alerting patients to the change (as per the Data Protection Act 2018), and as such there is no requirement to contact this patient cohort directly
- Contacting patients directly could be seen as inviting the patient to opt-out, which could prove detrimental to their on-going care.

The only action that you may wish to consider would be for an individual GP to contact a patient directly as a courtesy if they have professional concerns about a patient's wellbeing in regard to known anxiety around information sharing.

The Connecting your Care programme team are also available to answer direct patient queries and details of how to contact us can be found in the "Contact us" section of the Privacy Notice materials.

Dr Rod Ewen – Clinical IT Lead Wandsworth CCG  
on behalf of the Connecting your Care Programme Team

