

Do I have a choice?

If you are happy for your information to be shared in this way, then you don't need to do anything. The Connecting your Care system will be phased in over the next few months.

What if I want to opt-out?

If you do not want your information to be shared, you have the right to opt-out by visiting www.swlondon.nhs.uk/connectingyourcare and downloading the opt-out form.

You can also pick up an opt-out form from your GP practice or the Patient Advice and Liaison Services (PALS) at one of the participating hospitals:

- Croydon Health Services NHS Trust
- St George's Healthcare NHS Trust
- Epsom & St Helier University Hospital
- Kingston Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Opting-out means that your information will continue only to be shared in the same way it is now – by phone, email, fax or letter – but this will take time to collect and you will not be able to take advantage of the benefits of sharing information electronically through Connecting your Care.

This means that the people looking after you may not have your full history available to them when they assess you and decisions about your care may take longer to make.

Opting-out of Connecting your Care is not linked in any way to the national data opt-out or any other data sharing agreements.

Want to find out more?



For more information visit
www.swlondon.nhs.uk/connectingyourcare



connectingyourcare@swlondon.nhs.uk



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Freepost SWL CONNECTING YOUR CARE



South West London

Health & Care
Partnership

Connecting your Care

We're improving the way we connect your care across south west London. Soon, health and social care professionals will be able to access your records from other care services when you need them to. This will make it quicker and easier for you when you visit your GP or hospital or when you are speaking to a social worker.

What does Connecting your Care mean for me?

For residents registered with a GP in Kingston, there is already a system in place, called the Kingston Care Record, which means that your care record, which holds a summary of your health and social care information from your GP, community health services, mental health services, Kingston Hospital and Kingston Council's adult social care services, can be seen by people directly involved in your care in other areas of south west London.

This will be replaced by a new secure system, called Connecting your Care.

This system will help health and care professions to make the best decisions about your care, which could be lifesaving in emergency situations.

What are the benefits?

- You will only have to tell us your history once
- You can avoid unnecessary or repeated appointments and tests
- Important information is immediately visible to the people caring for you
- Decisions about your care can be made more quickly with more information available

What information will be shared?

The information shared will include:

- Name, address and NHS number
- Appointments and hospital attendances
- Important medical history, including diagnoses, medicines and allergies
- Test results, such as blood tests and x-rays
- If a social care assessment exists, the type, date and review date

What information will not be shared?

Certain information is classified as highly sensitive and is restricted by law, such as sexual health, assisted conception and adoption records and this information will not be shared.

Social care information relating to financial circumstances or legal status (such as county court judgements or fines) will not be shared as they are not directly relevant to health and care needs.

No children's social care information will be shared as part of this system.

Is my information safe?

Information about you is protected under the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulations 2016. This requires that health and social care professionals:

- Can see information about you only so that they can provide you with the care that you need
- Must keep your records secure
- Have a duty of confidence

In addition, all organisations are governed by the General Data Protection Regulation 2016, which means they are responsible for your information and must keep it safe.

Information about you will not be shared with or sold to private companies.

Who will see the information about me?

Only the people directly involved in your care. This might be your GP or practice nurse, social worker, hospital doctors and nurses, along with administrators who might be arranging your appointments and care.

