



Dr C Westwood and Dr H Westwood

Dear Patient

Important information about your health records – The NHS Care Records Service and Trafford Shared Care Record.

The NHS in England is introducing the NHS Care Records Service to improve the way we care for patients. Every patient will have an NHS Care Record that is made up of two parts: the Summary Care Record (SCR) and Detailed Records. These electronic records are supported by Trafford PCT as they are helping to deliver better, safer care for patients.

In Trafford we are also developing a local shared care record. This will run in parallel to the national scheme but is a separate local initiative. This record will be for local use and most importantly for all our patients, will be managed locally by your GPs. Information from this record will only be shared with health care professionals directly involved in your care and approval for them to view your record will only be granted by a body consisting of GP's from this area. Your own GP will have the opportunity to participate in this local scheme during its implementation over the coming 12 months.

The National Summary Care Record (SCR) will be available to healthcare staff providing you with NHS care anywhere in England. At first, it will contain key health information such as details of allergies, current prescriptions and bad reactions to medicines. After that, each time you use any NHS health services, details about any current health problems, summaries of your care and the professionals treating you may be added to your SCR. Your SCR will be most benefit if you need health care in an emergency or if you are away from home in England and need treatment.

In order for staff to look at any SCR they must ask for your permission. If the healthcare worker treating you is not able to ask for your permission (for example, if you were unconscious or unable to answer questions) they can access your record in your best interests. Whenever this is done the circumstances will be checked to ensure that it has been appropriate.

If you are the parent or guardian of a child under 16 then you should make this information available to them if you feel they are old enough to understand.

It is intended the SCR will be phased in for patients over the next 18 months, but this letter is being sent to all patients now to inform you and explain that you have choices. Here in Trafford it is intended to roll out and test the local GP data sharing before moving to the nations SCR data sharing solution.

Trafford PCT believes that Summary Care Records will improve the quality and safety of your care, however, if you do not want to have a Summary Care Record please contact your GP Practice and complete an 'opt out' form. Please be clear, you can opt out of either scheme on an individual basis or both schemes. Should you change your GP practice you will have to notify your new practice if you wish to 'opt' out.

If you have other questions contact NHS Care Record Line on 0845 603 8510