

## PRIVACY NOTICE FOR PATIENTS

# HOW WE USE YOUR INFORMATION

Taurus Healthcare understand how important it is to keep your personal information safe and secure and we take this very seriously. We have taken steps to make sure your personal information is looked after in the best possible way and we review this regularly.

Please read this Privacy Notice carefully, as it contains important information about how we use the personal and healthcare information we collect on your behalf.

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018) became law on 25 May 2018. The GDPR is a single EU-wide regulation on the protection of confidential and sensitive (special) information, the DPA 2018 deals with elements of UK law that differ from the European Regulation, both came into force in the UK on the 25 May 2018, repealing the previous Data Protection Act (1998).

For the purpose of applicable data protection legislation (including but not limited to the General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679) (the "GDPR"), and the Data Protection Act 2018 we, are responsible for your personal data.

As a result, we've published this Privacy Notice to make it easier for you to find out how the NHS uses and protects your information.

### WHY ARE WE PROVIDING THIS PRIVACY NOTICE?

We are required to provide you with this Privacy Notice by Law. It explains how we use the personal and healthcare information we collect, store and hold about you. If you are unclear about how we process or use your personal and healthcare information, or you have any questions about this Privacy Notice or any other issue regarding your personal and healthcare information, then please do contact our Data Protection Officer.

The Law says:

- We must let you know why we collect personal and healthcare information about you
- We must let you know how we use any personal and/or healthcare information we hold on you
- We need to inform you in respect of what we do with it
- We need to tell you about who we share it with or pass it on to and why
- We need to let you know how long we can keep it for

### WHAT IS A PRIVACY NOTICE?

A Privacy Notice (or 'Fair Processing Notice') is an explanation of what information the organisation collects on patients, and how it is used. Being transparent and providing clear information to patients about how an organisation uses their personal data is an essential requirement of the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

Under the GDPR, the organisation must process personal data in a fair and lawful manner, and applies to everything that is done with patient's personal information. In practice, this means that the organisation must:

- Have legitimate reasons for the use or collection of personal data
- Not use the data in a way that may cause adverse effects on the individuals (eg improper sharing of their information with 3<sup>rd</sup> parties)
- Be transparent about how the data will be used, and give appropriate privacy notices when collecting their personal data
- Handle personal data only as reasonably expected to do so
- Make no unlawful use of the collected data.

### LEGAL JUSTIFICATION FOR COLLECTING AND USING YOUR INFORMATION

The Law says we need a legal basis to handle your personal and healthcare information.

- **Contract** – we have a contract to deliver healthcare services to you. This contract provides that we are under a legal obligation to ensure that we deliver medical and healthcare services to the public.
- **Consent** – Sometimes we also rely on the fact that you give us consent to use your personal and healthcare information so that we can take care of your healthcare needs. Please note that you have the right to withdraw consent at any time if you no longer wish to receive services from us.
- **Necessary Care** – Providing you with the appropriate healthcare, where necessary. The Law refers to this as 'protecting your vital interests' where you may be in a position not to be able to consent.
- **Law** – Sometimes the Law obliges us to provide your information to an organisation.

### SPECIAL CATEGORIES

The Law states that personal information about your health falls into a special category of information because it is very sensitive. Reasons that may entitle us to use and process your information may be as follows:

- **Public Interest** – Where we may need to handle your personal information when it is considered to be in the public interest. For example, when there is an outbreak of a specific disease and we need to contact you for treatment, or we need to pass your information to relevant organisations to ensure you receive advice and/or treatment.
- **Consent** – When you have given us consent.
- **Vital Interest** – If you are incapable of giving consent and we have to use your information to protect your vital interests (eg if you have had an accident and you need emergency treatment).
- **Defending a Claim** – If we need your information to defend a legal claim against us by you, or by another party.
- **Providing You with Medical Care** – where we need your information to provide you with medical and healthcare services.

## WHO IS THE DATA CONTROLLER?

Taurus Healthcare is registered as a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act 2018. The registration number is **Z3209239** and can be viewed online in the public register at <http://www.ico.gov.uk>. This means we are responsible for collecting, storing and handling your personal and healthcare information when you are seen by us as a patient.

There may be times when we also process your information. That means we use it for a particular purpose and, therefore, on those occasions we may also be Data Processors. The purposes for which we use your information are set out in this Privacy Notice.

## FAIR PROCESSING

Personal data must be processed in a fair manner – the GDPR says that information should be treated as being obtained fairly if it is provided by a person who is legally authorised or required to provide it. Fair Processing means that the organisation has to be clear and open with people about how their information is used.

This Privacy Notice explains why we as an organisation collect information about our patients and how that information may be used.

Taurus Healthcare manages patient information in accordance with existing laws and with guidance from organisations that govern the provision of healthcare in England such as the Department of Health and the General Medical Council.

We are committed to protecting your privacy and will only use information collected lawfully in accordance with:

- General Data Protection Regulations 2016
- Data Protection Act 2018
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Common Law Duty of Confidentiality
- Health and Social Care Act 2012
- NHS Codes of Confidentiality and Information Security
- Information: To Share or Not to Share Review

In practice, this means ensuring that your personal confidential data (PCD) is handled clearly and transparently, and in a reasonably expected way.

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 changed the way that personal confidential data is processed, therefore it is important that our patients are aware of and understand these changes, and that you have an opportunity to object and know how to do so.

The health care professionals who provide you with care maintain records about your health and any NHS treatment or care you have received (eg NHS Hospital Trust, GP Surgery, Walk-in clinic, etc). These records help to provide you with the best possible healthcare.

NHS health records may be processed electronically, on paper or a mixture of both; and we use a combination of working practices and technology to ensure that your information is kept confidential and secure.

## **HOW WE USE THE INFORMATION ABOUT YOU**

We use your personal and healthcare information in the following ways:

- When we need to speak to, or contact other doctors, consultants, nurses or any other medical/healthcare professional or organisation during the course of your diagnosis or treatment or ongoing healthcare.
- When we are required by Law to hand over your information to any other organisation, such as the police, by court order, solicitors or immigration enforcement.

We will never pass on your personal information to anyone else who does not need it, or has no right to it, unless you give us clear consent to do so.

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Under the General Data Protection Regulation, we will be lawfully using your information in accordance with:

*Article 6, e) processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller;*

*Article 9, (h) processing is necessary for the purposes of preventive or occupational medicine, for the assessment of the working capacity of the employee, medical diagnosis, the provision of health or social care or treatment or the management of health or social care systems.*

## **HOW LONG WE KEEP YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION**

We are required under UK law to keep your information and data for the full retention periods as specified by the NHS Records Management Code of Practice for health and social care and national archives requirements.

More information on records retention can be found online at:

<https://digital.nhs.uk/article/1202/Records-Management-Code-of-Practice-for-Health-and-Social-Care-2016>

## **WHERE DO WE STORE YOUR INFORMATION ELECTRONICALLY?**

All the personal data we process is processed by our staff in the UK however for the purposes of IT hosting and maintenance this information may be located on servers within the European Union.

No third parties have access to your personal data unless the law allows them to do so and appropriate safeguards have been put in place such as a Data Processor as above. We have a Data Protection regime in place to oversee the effective and secure processing of your personal and/or special category (sensitive, confidential) data.

Taurus Healthcare uses a clinical system provided by a Data Processor called EMIS. With effect from 10 June 2019, EMIS started storing the organisation's EMIS Web data in a highly secure, third party cloud hosted environment, namely Amazon Web Services ('AWS').

The data will remain in the UK at all times and will be fully encrypted both in transit and at rest. In doing this, there will be no change to the control of access to your data and the hosted service provider will not have any access to the decryption keys. AWS is one of the world's largest cloud companies, already supporting numerous public sector clients (including the NHS), and it offers the very highest levels of security and support.

### **INFORMATION WE COLLECT FROM YOU**

Records held by this organisation may include the following information:

- Your contact details (such as your name, address and email address including place of work and work contact details)
- Details and contact numbers of your next of kin
- Your age range, gender, ethnicity
- Details in relation to your medical history
- The reason for your visit to the organisation
- Any contact the organisation and/or your practice has had with you, including appointments (emergency or scheduled), clinic visits, etc
- Notes and reports about your health, details of diagnosis and consultations with our GPs and other Health Professionals within the healthcare environment involved in your direct healthcare
- Details about treatment and care received
- Results of investigations, such as laboratory tests, x-rays, etc
- Relevant information from other health professionals, relatives or those who care for you
- Recordings of telephone conversations between yourself and the organisation.

### **INFORMATION ABOUT YOU FROM OTHERS**

The organisation collects and holds data for the sole purpose of providing healthcare services to our patients and we will ensure that the information is kept confidential. However, we can disclose personal information if:

- It is required by law
- You provide consent – either implicitly or for the sake of their own care, or explicitly for other purposes
- It is justified to be in the public interest.

To ensure you receive the best possible care, your records are used to facilitate the care you receive. Information held about you may be used to help protect the health of the public and to help us manage the NHS.

Information may be used for clinical audit purposes to monitor the quality of service provided, and may be held centrally and used for statistical purposes. Where we do this, we ensure that patient records cannot be identified.

Sometimes your information may be requested to be used for clinical research purposes – the organisation will always endeavour to gain your consent before releasing the information.

Improvements in information technology are also making it possible for us to share data with other healthcare providers with the objective of providing you with better care. Patients can choose to withdraw their consent to their data being used in this way. When the organisation is about to participate in any new data-sharing scheme we will make patients aware by displaying prominent notices and on our website at least four weeks before the scheme is due to start. We will also explain clearly what you have to do to 'opt-out' of each new scheme.

A patient can object to their personal information being shared with other health care providers but if this limits the treatment that you can receive then the doctor will explain this to you at the time.

### **HOW DO WE MAINTAIN THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF YOUR RECORDS?**

We are committed to protecting your privacy and will only use information collected lawfully in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations (which is overseen by the Information Commissioner's Office), Human Rights Act, the Common Law Duty of Confidentiality, and the NHS Codes of Confidentiality and Security. Every staff member who works for an NHS organisation has a legal obligation to maintain the confidentiality of patient information.

All of our staff, contractors and locums receive appropriate and regular training to ensure they are aware of their personal responsibilities and have legal and contractual obligations to uphold confidentiality, enforceable through disciplinary procedures. Only a limited number of authorised staff have access to personal information where it is appropriate to their role and is strictly on a need-to-know basis. If a sub-contractor acts as a data processor for Taurus Healthcare, an appropriate contract (Article 24-28) will be established for the processing of your information.

We maintain our duty of confidentiality to you at all times. We will only ever use or pass on information about you if others involved in your care have a genuine need for it. We will not disclose your information to any third party without your permission unless there are exceptional circumstances (ie life or death situations), or where the law requires information to be passed on and/or in accordance with the information sharing principle following Dame Fiona Caldicott's information sharing review (Information to share or not to share) where "The duty to share information can be as important as the duty to protect patient confidentiality." This means that health and social care professionals should have the confidence to share information in the best interests of their patients within the framework set out by the Caldicott principles.

Our organisational policy is to respect the privacy of our patients, their families and our staff and to maintain compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and all UK specific Data Protection Requirements. Our policy is to ensure all personal data related to our patients will be protected.

In certain circumstances you may have the right to withdraw your consent to the processing of data. Please contact the Data Protection Officer in writing if you wish to withdraw your consent. In some circumstances we may need to store your data after your consent has been withdrawn to comply with a legislative requirement.

## **WHO WE MAY PROVIDE YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION TO AND WHY?**

Whenever you use a health or care service, such as attending Accident and Emergency or using Community Care Services, important information about you is collected to help ensure you get the best possible care and treatment. This information may be passed to other approved organisations where there is a legal basis, to help with planning services, improving care, research into developing new treatments and preventing illness. All of this helps in providing better care to you and your family and future generations. However, as explained in this Privacy Notice, confidential information about your health and care is only used in this way where allowed by law and would never be used for any other purpose without your clear and explicit consent.

We may pass your personal information on to the following people or organisations, because these organisations may require your information to assist them in the provision of your direct healthcare needs. It, therefore, may be important for them to be able to access your information in order to ensure they may properly deliver their services to you:

- Hospital professionals (such as doctors, consultants, nurses etc)
- Other GPs/Doctors
- Specialist Trusts
- Independent Contractors such as dentists, opticians, pharmacists
- Any other person who is involved in providing services related to your general healthcare, including mental health professionals
- Private Sector Providers including pharmaceutical companies to allow for provision of medical equipment, dressings, hosiery etc
- Voluntary Sector Providers
- Ambulance Trusts
- Clinical Commissioning Groups
- Local Authority
- Social Care Services
- Education Services
- Other 'data processors' eg Diabetes UK.

You will be informed who your data will be shared with and in some cases asked for explicit consent for this to happen when this is required.

## **OTHER PEOPLE WHO WE PROVIDE YOUR INFORMATION TO**

- For the purposes of complying with the law, eg Police.
- Anyone you have given your consent to, to view or receive your record, or part of your record – please note, if you give another person or organisation consent to access your record, we will need to contact you to verify your consent before we release that record. It is important that you are clear and understand how much and what aspects of your record you give consent to be disclosed.
- Extended Access – we provide extended access services to our patients which means you can access medical services outside of our normal working hours. In order to provide you with this service, we have formal arrangements in place with the Clinical Commissioning

Group whereby certain key 'hub' practices offer this service for you as a patient to access outside of our opening hours. This means those key 'hub' practices will have to have access to your medical record to be able to offer you the service. Please note to ensure that those practices comply with the law and to protect the use of your information, we have very robust data sharing agreements and other clear arrangements in place to ensure your data is always protected and used for those purposes only. The key 'hub' practices are South Wye Medical Centre, Hereford; The Marches Surgery, Leominster; Pendeen Surgery, Ross on Wye; The Medical Practice, Kington; Ledbury Health Partnership, Ledbury; and Nunwell Surgery, Bromyard.

- Data Extraction by the Clinical Commissioning Group – the Clinical Commissioning Group at times extracts medical information about you, but the information we pass to them via our computer systems cannot identify you to them. This information only refers to you by way of a code that only your own practice can identify (it is pseudo-anonymised). This therefore protects you from anyone who may have access to this information at the Clinical Commissioning Group from ever identifying you as a result of seeing the medical information and we will never give them the information that would enable them to do this.
- Herefordshire One Record – Patients in Herefordshire are able to benefit from the sharing of information to better manage their care via the Herefordshire One Record system. This includes sharing: contact details, diagnosis, medications, allergies, test results, referral and letters and care plans between health professionals in Herefordshire.

Health information is shared with:

- Wye Valley NHS Trust (including community services)
- St Michael's Hospice
- Herefordshire Mental Health and Learning Disability Services
- Your registered general practice within Herefordshire

Further information about the Herefordshire One Record can be found by going to the following web page: [www.herefordshireccg.nhs.uk/your-services/herefordshire-one-record](http://www.herefordshireccg.nhs.uk/your-services/herefordshire-one-record).

### **NATIONAL OPT-OUT FACILITY**

This is used by the NHS, local authorities, university and hospital researchers, medical colleges and pharmaceutical companies researching new treatments.

You can choose to opt out of sharing your confidential patient information for research and planning. There may still be times when your confidential patient information is used; for example, during an epidemic where there might be a risk to you or to other people's health. You can also still consent to take part in a specific research project.

Your confidential patient information will still be used for your individual care. Choosing to opt out will not affect your care and treatment. You will still be invited for screening services, such as screening for bowel cancer.

You do not need to do anything if you are happy about how your confidential patient information is used.

If you do not want your confidential patient information to be used for research and planning, you can choose to opt out by using one of the following:

- [Online service](#) – Patients registering need to know their NHS number or their postcode as registered at their GP Practice.
- Telephone service 0300 303 5678 which is open Monday to Friday between 0900 and 1700.
- NHS App – for use by patients aged 13 and over (95% of surgeries are now connected to the NHS App). The app can be downloaded from the App Store or Google play.
- “Print and post” registration form:  
[https://assets.nhs.uk/prod/documents/Manage\\_your\\_choice\\_1.1.pdf](https://assets.nhs.uk/prod/documents/Manage_your_choice_1.1.pdf).

Photocopies of proof of applicant’s name (eg passport, UK driving licence etc) and address (eg utility bill, payslip etc) need to be sent with the application. It can take up to 14 days to process the form once it arrives at NHS, PO Box 884, Leeds, LS1 9TZ.

- Getting a healthcare professional to assist patients in prison or other secure settings to register an opt-out choice. For patients detained in such settings, guidance is available on NHS Digital and a Proxy form is available to assist in registration.

### **THIRD PARTY PROCESSORS**

In order to deliver the best possible service, Taurus Healthcare will share data (where required) with other NHS bodies such as GP practices and hospitals. In addition, the organisation will use carefully selected third party service providers. When we use a third party service provider to process data on our behalf then we will always have an appropriate agreement in place to ensure that they keep the data secure, that they do not use or share information other than in accordance with our instructions and that they are operating appropriately. Examples of functions that may be carried out by third parties includes:

- Companies that provide IT services and support, including our core clinical systems; systems which manage patient facing services (such as our website and service accessible through the same); data hosting service providers; systems which facilitate appointment bookings or electronic prescription services; document management services etc.
- Further details regarding specific third-party processors can be supplied on request to the Data Protection Officer as below.

### **SHARED CARE**

To support your care and improve the sharing of relevant information to our partner organisations (as above) when they are involved in looking after you, we will share information to other systems. You can opt out of this sharing of your records with our partners at any time if this sharing is based on your consent.

## ANONYMISED INFORMATION

Sometimes we may provide information about you in an anonymised form. If we do so, then none of the information we provide to any other party will identify you as an individual and cannot be traced back to you.

## THIRD PARTIES MENTIONED ON YOUR MEDICAL RECORD

Sometimes we record information about third parties mentioned by you to us during any consultation. We are under an obligation to make sure we also protect that third party's rights as an individual and to ensure that references to them which may breach their rights to confidentiality are removed before we send any information to any other party including yourself. Third parties can include: spouses, partners and other family members.

## YOUR RIGHTS AS A PATIENT

The Law gives you certain rights to your personal and healthcare information that we hold, as set out below:

- **Access and Subject Access Requests** – You have a right under the Data Protection legislation to request access to view or to obtain copies of what information the organisation holds about you and to have it amended should it be inaccurate. To request this, you need to do the following:
  - Your request should be made to Taurus Healthcare at [quality.taurus@nhs.net](mailto:quality.taurus@nhs.net).
  - For information from a hospital or other Trust/NHS organisation you should write direct to them.
  - There is no charge to have a copy of the information held about you however we may, in some limited and exceptional circumstances have to make an administrative charge for any extra copies if the information requested is excessive, complex or repetitive.
  - We are required to provide you with information within one month. We would ask therefore that any requests you make are in writing and it is made clear to us what and how much information you require.
  - You will need to give adequate information (for example full name, address, date of birth, NHS number and details of your request) so that your identity can be verified, and your records located.
- **Correction** – We want to make sure that your personal information is accurate and up to date. You may ask us to correct any information you think is inaccurate. It is very important that you make sure you tell us if your contact details including your mobile phone number has changed.
- **Removal** – You have the right to ask for your information to be removed. However, if we require this information to assist us in providing you with appropriate medical services and diagnosis for your healthcare, then removal may not be possible.
- **Objection** – We cannot share your information with anyone else for a purpose that is not directly related to your health, eg medical research, educational purposes etc.

- **Transfer** – You have the right to request that your personal and/or healthcare information is transferred, in an electronic form (or other form) to another organisation, but we will require your clear consent to be able to do this.

### **SHARING YOUR INFORMATION WITHOUT CONSENT**

We will normally ask you for your consent, but there are times when we may be required by law to share your information without your consent, for example:

- Where there is a serious risk of harm or abuse to you or other people
- Safeguarding matters and investigations
- Where a serious crime, such as assault, is being investigated or where it could be prevented
- Notification of new births
- Where we encounter infectious diseases that may endanger the safety of others, such as meningitis or measles (but not HIV/AIDS)
- Where a formal court order has been issued
- Where there is a legal requirement, for example if you had committed a Road Traffic Offence.

### **IF ENGLISH IS NOT YOUR FIRST LANGUAGE**

If English is not your first language you can request a translation of this Privacy Notice.

### **TEXT MESSAGING AND CONTACTING YOU**

Because we are obliged to protect any confidential information we hold about you and we take this very seriously, it is imperative that you let us know immediately if you change any of your contact details.

We may contact you using SMS texting to your mobile phone in the event that we need to notify you about appointments and other services that we provide to you involving your direct care, therefore you must ensure that we have up to date details. This is to ensure we are actually contacting you and not another person.

### **ORGANISATION WEBSITE**

Our website does use cookies to optimise your experience. Using this feature means that you agreed to the use of cookies as required by the EU Data Protection Directive 95/46/EC. You have the option to decline the use of cookies on your first visit to the website. The only website this Privacy Notice applies to is the Taurus Healthcare website. If you use a link to any other website from the organisation's website then you will need to read their respective Privacy Notice. We take no responsibility (legal or otherwise) for the content of other websites.

### **TELEPHONE SYSTEM**

Our telephone system records all telephone calls. Recordings are retained for up to three years, and are used periodically for the purposes of seeking clarification where there is a dispute as to what was said and for staff training. Access to these recordings is restricted to named senior staff.

### **GP CONNECT SERVICE**

The GP Connect service allows authorised clinical staff at NHS 111 to seamlessly access our clinical system and book directly on behalf of a patient. This means that should you call NHS 111 and the

clinician believes you need an appointment the clinician will access available appointment slots only (through GP Connect) and book you in. This will save you time as you will not need to contact the organisation direct for an appointment.

Taurus Healthcare will not be sharing any of your data and the organisation will only allow NHS 111 to see available appointment slots. They will not even have access to your record. However, NHS 111 will share any relevant data with us, but you will be made aware of this. This will help in knowing what treatment/service/help you may require.

Please note if you no longer require the appointment or need to change the date and time for any reason you will need to speak to one of our reception staff and not NHS 111.

### **PATIENT COMMUNICATION**

Because we are obliged to protect any confidential information we hold about you and we take this very seriously, it is imperative that you let your own GP practice know immediately if you change any of your contact details.

We may contact you using SMS texting to your mobile phone in the event that we need to notify you about appointments and other services that we provide to you involving your direct care. This is to ensure we are sure we are actually contacting you and not another person. As this is operated on an 'opt out' basis we will assume that you give us permission to contact you via SMS if you have provided your mobile telephone number. Please let your GP practice know if you wish to opt out of this SMS service. We may also contact you using the email address you have provided to us. Please ensure that we have your up to date details.

### **AUDIT**

Auditing of clinical notes is done by Taurus as part of their commitment to effective management of healthcare whilst acting as data processor for your GP practice.

Article 9.2.h is applicable to the management of healthcare services and "permits processing necessary for the purposes of medical diagnosis, provision of healthcare and treatment, provision of social care and the management of healthcare systems or services or social care systems or services." No consent is required to audit clinical notes for this purpose.

Furthermore, compliance with Article 9(2)(h) requires that certain safeguards are met. The processing must be undertaken by or under the responsibility of a professional subject to the obligation of professional secrecy, or by another person who is subject to an obligation of secrecy.

Auditing clinical management is no different to a multi-disciplinary team meeting discussion whereby management is reviewed and agreed. It would be realistically impossible to require consent for every patient reviewed which is unnecessary.

It is also prudent to audit under Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014: Regulation 17: Good Governance

### **SAFEGUARDING**

The organisation is dedicated to ensuring that the principles and duties of safeguarding adults and children are holistically, consistently and conscientiously applied with the wellbeing of all, at the heart of what we do.

Our legal basis for processing for General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) purposes is:

*Article 6(1)(e) ‘...exercise of official authority...’.*

For the processing of special categories data, the basis is:

*Article 9(2)(b) – ‘processing is necessary for the purposes of carrying out the obligations and exercising specific rights of the controller or of the data subject in the field of employment and social security and social protection law...’*

Safeguarding information such as referrals to safeguarding teams is retained by Taurus Healthcare when handling a safeguarding concern or incident. We may share information accordingly to ensure duty of care and investigation as required with other partners such as local authorities, the police or healthcare professionals (ie their GP or mental health team).

### **PRIMARY CARE NETWORK**

The objective of primary care networks (PCNs) is for group practices together to create more collaborative workforces which ease the pressure of GPs, leaving them better able to focus on patient care. All areas within England are covered by a PCN.

Primary Care Networks form a key building block of the NHS long-term plan. Bringing general practices together to work at scale has been a policy priority for some years for a range of reasons, including improving the ability of practices to recruit and retain staff; to manage financial and estates pressures; to provide a wider range of services to patients and to more easily integrate with the wider health and care system.

All GP Practices have come together in geographical networks covering populations of approximately 30–50,000 patients to take advantage of additional funding attached to the GP contract. This size is consistent with the size of the primary care homes, which exist in many places in the country, but much smaller than most GP Federations.

This means that Taurus Healthcare may share your information with other practices within the Primary Care Network to provide you with your care and treatment.

### **NHS HEALTH CHECKS**

Cohorts of our patients aged 40-74 not previously diagnosed with cardiovascular disease are eligible to be invited for an NHS Health Check. Nobody outside the healthcare team in Taurus Healthcare will see confidential information about you during the invitation process.

### **OBJECTIONS AND/OR COMPLAINTS**

Should you have any concerns about how your information is managed at Taurus Healthcare, please contact the Quality Team via [quality.taurus@nhs.net](mailto:quality.taurus@nhs.net). If you are still unhappy following a review by the organisation, you can then complain to the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) via their website ([www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)) Telephone: 0303 123 1113.

The Information Commissioner’s Office is the Regulator for the General Data Processing Regulations and offer independent advice and guidance on the law and personal data, including your rights and how to access your personal information.

## DATA PROTECTION OFFICER

The organisation's Data Protection Officer is Paul Couldrey of PCIG Consulting Limited. Any queries regarding Data Protection issues should be addressed to him at:

Email: [Couldrey@me.com](mailto:Couldrey@me.com)

Postal: PCIG Consulting Limited, 7 Westacre Drive, Quarry Bank, Dudley, West Midlands DY5 2EE

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information about the way in which the NHS uses personal information and your rights in that respect can be found in:

- The NHS Care Record Guarantee:  
<https://www.nhs.uk/nhsengland/thenhs/records/healthrecords/documents/patientguidancebooklet.pdf>
- The NHS Constitution: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-nhs-constitution-for-england>
- NHS Digital's Guide to Confidentiality in Health and Social Care gives more information on the rules around information sharing: <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/looking-after-information/data-security-and-information-governance/codes-of-practice-for-handling-information-in-health-and-care/confidentiality>.

## WHERE TO FIND OUR PRIVACY NOTICE

You may find a copy of this Privacy Notice on our website or a copy may be provided on request.

## CHANGES TO OUR PRIVACY NOTICE

It is important to note that we may amend this Privacy Notice from time to time. If you are dissatisfied with any aspect of our Privacy Notice, please contact the Data Protection Officer.

*This Privacy Notice was last updated on 23 February 2021*