

April update

Summary Care Record – your emergency care summary

The NHS in England is introducing the Summary Care Record, which will be used by doctors and nurses in the event of unscheduled or emergency care. The record will contain information about any medicines you are taking, allergies you suffer from and any bad reactions to medicines you have had, to ensure those caring for you have enough information to treat you safely. It is already being used successfully in many parts of the country and will affect the whole of the patient population of Wiltshire. More information is below:

People in Wiltshire will receive letters with information and a leaflet about the Summary Care Record from 16th April onwards.

The Summary Care Record can be very useful to health staff – particularly if you are taken ill or have an accident in an area where you do not live. Healthcare staff will be able to check your information so that they know what will be the best way to treat you if, for instance, you are allergic to a particular medicine.

Healthcare staff who can see your Summary Care Record:

- Need to be directly involved in caring for you;
- Need to have a smartcard with a chip and passcode (like a bank card and PIN)
- Will only see the information they need to do their job and
- Will have their details recorded

By law, everyone working for the NHS, or on behalf of the NHS, must respect your confidentiality and keep all information about you secure – and more information about this is contained in the leaflet you will receive.

As a patient you have a choice:

- **Yes I would like a Summary Care Record** – you do not need to do anything when you receive your letter, and a Summary Care Record will be created for you. If you have an accident, or need some emergency or unscheduled healthcare, healthcare staff will ask your permission before they look at your record, except in certain circumstances (for example if you are unconscious).
- **No I do not want a Summary Care Record** – a freepost opt out form will be included with your letter. **This form should be completed, sealed and returned, or alternatively you can hand it into your GP practice.** Additional copies of the opt out form can be picked up from your GP practice or requested from the dedicated NHS Summary Care Record Information line on **0300 123 3020.**

If you feel you would like more information to help you decide, you can telephone the dedicated NHS Summary Care Record Information Line on **0300 123 3020** or visit the website at **www.nhscarerecords.nhs.uk**, where you can find information in other formats and languages.

You can choose not to have a Summary Care Record and you can change your mind at any time by informing your GP practice.

If you are a parent or guardian of a child under 16 then you may wish to discuss this with them – they will automatically receive a Summary Care Record unless you opt them out.

Your Summary Care Record will be created over the next six months from receipt of your letter; if you choose not to have a Summary Care Record then you need to send the opt-out form back within 12 weeks from the date of your letter.

If you do nothing the NHS will assume that you are happy and create a Summary Care Record for you.