



Helix Medical Centre

Herts & Essex Hospital, Cavell Drive, Haymeads Lane
Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM23 5JH.
Tel: 01279 594450

Privacy Notice

We 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 ('Privacy Notice') carefully, as it contains important information about how we use the personal and healthcare information we collect on your behalf.

A Poster of how we handle your data is available from our reception desk & is downloadable from our website

Children accessing our services can obtain a copy of the Children's Policy from our reception desk & is downloadable from our website

About Us

We, at Helix Medical Centre situated at Herts & Essex Hospital, Cavell Drive, Haymeads Lane, Bishops Stortford, CM23 5JH are a **Data Controller** of your information. This means we are responsible for determining the purpose for collecting, storing and handling your personal and healthcare information when you are registered with us as a patient.

Our aim is to provide you with the highest quality healthcare. To do this we must keep information about you, your health, and the care that is provided, or is planned to be provided, to you. This information is collectively known as your 'health record'. The purposes for which we use the information held in your health record are set out in this Privacy Notice.

It is important to us that you are informed about how we use the information we hold about you. If you have any questions about this Privacy Notice or any other concern regarding how your personal and healthcare information is used, then please contact us.

2. Contact Us

A. Data Controller

The contact details of the named responsible Data Controller at the practice is Michelle Ford – Practice Manager, in her absence responsibility will revert to Dr Jagjit Takhar – GP Partner.

You can make contact by calling 01279 594450 & leaving a message with the receptionist if:

1. You have any questions about your information being held
2. You require access to your information or if you wish to make a change to your information
3. Any other query in relation to this Privacy Notice Policy and your rights as a patient

B. If you have a concern

If you have a concern or complaint about the way we handle your personal data or how we have used or handled your personal and/or healthcare information, **please contact the Data Controller** via the contact information provided, so we can review your concern in accordance with our internal policy.

In the event that your concern was not resolved by your contact with our named Data Controller, then please contact our Data Protection Officer on the details below.

You also have the right to raise any concern or complaint with the UK supervisory authority, at the **Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)**: <https://ico.org.uk/> or telephone: 0303 123 1113.

- C. **Data Protection Officer (DPO)** function for this practice is provided by HBL ICT services, hosted by NHS Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Board. If you wish to contact the DPO for further information on how we use your data, or if you have a concern about anything to do with the personal and healthcare information we hold about you (that was not resolved by your enquiry with the practice), please contact the DPO at HBL ICT hosted by NHS Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Board at: hweicbenh.dpo-gpcontractedservice@nhs.net



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1. Information We Collect About You and Why

In order to provide healthcare services, we collect personal information from you, such as your contact details: your name, address, telephone number(s), email address, date of birth, gender, ethnicity, NHS Number, details and contact number(s) of your place of work, next of kin, or carers as applicable.

We also collect health information and other related information from you and from health care professionals, or any other person involved in your general healthcare. This may include such information as:

- Contact we have had with you, such as appointments and services
- Information related to the services provided
- Suitability to take part in research studies.
- Notes and reports about your health
- Details and records about your treatment and care including your medical history
- Results of x-rays, laboratory tests etc.
- Firearms applications
- Living wills
- Court orders
- Contact from your employer regarding your health, insurance and solicitors matters, safeguarding information, the immigration office, benefits agencies and police matters, the DVLA, Social & Mental Health Services, Pharmacists, Hospitals, NHS 111, The Extended Access Service, The Ambulance Service.
- Any organisation who you give permission to ask for your medical information.

The information collected from you and others is collectively known as your 'health record'. Your health record may be held in handwritten format (manual record) or on a computer system (electronic). Information held within your health record is used for your direct care purposes and to check and review the quality of care you have received. (This is called audit and clinical governance).

We may contact you using SMS messaging for appointment and other services on the mobile number you have provided and where you have given us permission to do so. If you no longer wish to receive messages via SMS, please contact the practice to let us know.

Your care providers will endeavour to ensure that your health record is kept up-to-date, accurate, secure and appropriately accessible to those providing your care and treatment. Please ensure you update us on any changes to your contact information or any other relevant details. You have the right to access information held about you. For details on access requests, please see Section 6A of this Privacy Notice.

As from 1 July 2022 in response to COVID-19 the health and social care system will need to continue to take action to manage and mitigate the spread and impact of the outbreak.

Under Regulation 3(4) of COPI, to:

- GP practices in England, whose IT systems are supplied by The Phoenix Partnership (TPP) or Egton Medical Information Systems (EMIS)

To process data for purposes set out in Regulation 3(1) of COPI.

Organisations are only required to process such confidential patient information:

- where the confidential patient information to be processed is required for a COVID-19 Purpose and will be processed solely for that COVID-19 Purpose in accordance with Regulation 7 of COPI
- from the date of this Notice until 31 October 2022

A COVID-19 Purpose includes but is not limited to the following:

- understanding COVID-19 and risks to public health, trends, controlling and preventing the spread of COVID-19
- processing to support the NHS Test and Trace programme
- identifying and understanding information about patients or potential patients with or at risk of COVID-19, information about incidents of patient exposure to COVID-19 and the management of patients with or at risk of COVID-19 including locating, contacting, screening, flagging and monitoring such patients and collecting information about and providing services in relation to testing.
- understanding information about patient access to health services and adult social care services and the need for wider care of patients and vulnerable groups as a direct or indirect result of COVID-19 and the availability and capacity of those services or that care



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- monitoring and managing the response to COVID-19 by health and social care bodies and the Government including providing information to the public about COVID-19 and its effectiveness and information about capacity, medicines, equipment, supplies, services and the workforce within the health services and adult social care services
- delivering services to patients, clinicians, the health services and adult social care services workforce and the public about and in connection with COVID-19, including the provision of information, fit notes and the provision of health care and adult social care services
- research and planning in relation to COVID-19

2. **Lawful Basis Relied on for Processing Information About You**

- A.** The primary lawful basis that we rely on to collect, store, use, and share your personal and health information for direct care, the administration of direct care services (prevention, investigation and treatment), and the planning of healthcare services under Data Protection Legislation are as follows:
- i. For processing personal data: The performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority... Article 6(1)(e) ‘
- And
- ii. For Personal data concerning health or special categories of personal data: Article 9(2) (h) ‘...for the medical diagnosis, the provision of health or social care or treatment or the management of health or social care systems...’

B. Vital Interests:

There may be occasions where we rely on the lawful basis of Vital Interests in the event that we need to process personal data to protect an individual's life.

C. Legal Obligation:

Sometimes we are required by law to share your information. Examples of this may include such reasons as: to safeguard children or vulnerable adults, where it is in the wider public interest (public health), detection or prevention of crime, to defend a legal claim, reporting to DVLA, or where required by court order. In these instances, the lawful basis for sharing information is Legal Obligation.

D. Consent:

Your consent will be sought in certain instances, where we do not rely on another lawful basis to process your information (see Section 3A-C). For example, if you wish to sign up to our practice newsletter or to release your information to a third party who we do not have a lawful basis to share your information with, your consent will be required. When consent is given as the lawful basis for processing your information, your consent can be withdrawn at any time.

We will never sell or share your information for direct marketing

3. **Direct Care Services and Who We May Provide Your Information to and Why**

Safe and effective care is dependent upon relevant information being shared between all those involved in caring for a patient. When an individual agrees to being treated by the wider care team, it creates a direct care relationship between the individual patient, the health and social care professional, and their team. All health and adult social care providers are subject to the statutory duty under section 251B of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 to share information about a patient for their direct care. This duty is subject to both the Common Law Duty of Confidentiality and the GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018.

Your personal information will only be shared in accordance with your rights under the General Data Protection Regulation, Data Protection Act 2018, the Common Law Duty of Confidentiality, the NHS Constitution, and in keeping with professional and NHS Codes of Practice.

For further information on the use and sharing of confidential information, please follow the NHS Digital link <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/a-guide-to-confidentiality-in-health-and-social-care>

You have the right to object to your information being shared for direct care, but in some circumstances, this may delay or affect the care you receive. Always consult your GP or relevant health professional before deciding to opt out of sharing your information, as they will be able to advise you on the possible outcomes of this decision. Please see Section 6E for further information on the right to object.

If you have registered for patient online access services, you may have the ability to view the My Care Record (MCR) partner organisations. Please see section 5G for more information about the MCR programme. Records are only available to partner organisations where you are registering for, or have been referred to, direct care services.



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The patient online access service offers you the ability to implement alternative preferences through specific lists of partner organisations. If you remove an organisation and require services from that organisation at a later date, you can inform the practice of your preference change(s). Alternatively, when you present at one of the partner organisations and you agree

A. Case Findings and Risk Stratification

Sometimes your information will be used to identify whether you may benefit from a new or existing service; based on case findings. To do this, we may use automated technology to help us identify people that might require support or benefit from services, but ultimately, the decision is made by those involved in your care. Those involved in your care might look at particular 'indicators' (such as particular conditions) and contact you or take action for healthcare purposes. For example, this might be to prevent you from having to visit accident and emergency by supporting you in your own home or in the community.

The automated review may be completed at the practice or in conjunction with NHS Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Board (ICB) Risk Stratification processes. The information we pass to the ICB is via our computer systems and cannot identify you to them. This information only refers to you by way of a code that only your practice can identify (it is pseudo-anonymised). This protects you from being identified by anyone not involved in your care who may have access to this information.

Please follow this link to see how the ICB use information to provide services and improve care:

[Privacy - Herts and West Essex ICS](https://www.hertsandwestessex.ics.nhs.uk/privacy/)

www.hertsandwestessex.ics.nhs.uk/privacy/

We may provide your information to the following people or organisations, where there is a legitimate reason to do so i.e.: they require your information to assist them in the effective provision of your direct healthcare needs:

- B. People and Organisations involved in your care:** Health and Social Care Professionals, including support personnel who have, or will have a direct care relationship with you to meet your healthcare needs:
- C. Diagnostic Organisations:** Diagnostic testing organisations are provided with relevant information to allow contact with you and to book a test/procedure to assist in your direct healthcare needs.
- D. Pharmacies:** Pharmacists are provided with relevant information to allow contact with you and to provide relevant prescriptions and supporting advice, assisting in your direct healthcare needs.
- E. Referrals such as Hospital Appointments/Specialists/Dentists/Continuing Health Care Services, Community Services (including Mental Health), and ICB approvals for certain NHS health services:**
When referrals are made for patients to an NHS or private healthcare provider, relevant patient contact details, including the registered mobile phone number the patient has given the practice permission to use, are shared for the purpose of arranging the referral appointment and/making direct contact if further details are required by the receiving organisation. If a patient has a preference or does not wish to be contacted by a specific method (i.e. mobile phone or SMS), this should be discussed with the clinician or personnel coordinating the referral on their behalf. In addition, a summary of the patient's health history is typically included in the referral, to assist the receiving healthcare professional to make a holistic assessment and/decision. This is important, because removal of areas of the history that could be considered relevant may affect the outcome of referrals and treatment. If there are areas of your healthcare history that you do not want shared, please raise this with your GP or healthcare professional.
- F. National Screening Programmes:** The NHS provides national screening programmes so that certain diseases can be detected at an early stage. These screening programmes currently include bowel cancer, breast cancer, cervical cancer, aortic aneurysms and a diabetic eye screening service. The law allows us to share your contact information with Public Health England so that you can be invited to the relevant screening programme.

More information can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/topic/population-screening-programmes>

For national screening programmes, you can opt out so that you no longer receive an invitation to a screening programme. See: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/opting-out-of-the-nhs-population-screening-programmes> or speak to your practice.



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G. Record Sharing Programmes

In order to provide you with the most integrated health and social care services, there are numerous national and regional initiatives in place to securely link different clinical systems via such technology as GP Connect or the MIG. This allows health and social care professionals to access to your clinical records when they are providing direct care services to you. Security and protection of your data is managed through robust national and local agreements.

i. My Care Record

1. **This is a local record sharing initiative** that promotes the safe, transparent sharing of your healthcare records for the purpose of your direct care needs. The My Care Record currently allows the sharing of patient records with local partner organisations. To ensure that those partner organisations 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 intended purposes only.

For more information of the My Care Record initiative and a list of the organisations who have signed data sharing agreements to promote this integrated care model, please follow the link: [My Care Record - Home](#)

[Shared Care Record - Herts and West Essex ICS](#)

2. **Extended Access** - this service is part of the My Care Record initiative of electronic health record sharing and provides you with access to GP appointments outside of our regular practice hours. In order to provide you with this service, we have formal arrangements in place with the NHS Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Board (ICB) the local GP Federation, and other practices. The local GP Federation (a group of local GP practices) offers this service on our behalf. This means the Federation will need access to your healthcare record to be able to offer you the service. To ensure that each organisation involved in the Extended Access service 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 Extended Access service is managed by Stort Valley Healthcare Federation and the Practices included are as follows:

- Helix Medical Centre, Bishops Stortford
- Church Street Surgery, Bishops Stortford
- South Street Surgery, Bishops Stortford
- Central Surgery, Sawbridgeworth
- Much Hadham Health Centre

3. **Primary Care Networks (PCN)** this organisation is part of the Stort Valley and Villages PCN. The PCN includes other local organisations such as: GP practices, community, mental health, social care, pharmacy, hospital and voluntary services, working together to enable greater provision of proactive, personalised, coordinated and more integrated health and social care. In order to provide you with these services, we have formal arrangements in place. To ensure partner organisations 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 intended purposes only.

Further information about the provider services within our PCN can be requested via the PCN website:

- <https://www.stortvalleyhealthcare.com/primary-care-network/>
- Local PCN membership of GP practices can be found here:
- [West Essex Primary Care Networks \(PCNs\) - Herts and West Essex ICS](#)
- Further information about PCNs can be found here:
- <https://www.england.nhs.uk/primary-care/primary-care-networks/>



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ii. Your Summary Care Record and Summary Care Record with Additional Information

Summary Care Record (SCR)

Your summary care record is an electronic record held on a national healthcare records database provided and facilitated by NHS Digital. This allows other healthcare professionals who we do not have data sharing agreements with, but who you have a direct care relationship with, to access your electronic record when they are providing you with direct care services. This is particularly helpful if you are visiting another part of the country and require healthcare services.

At a minimum, the SCR holds important information about;

- current medication
- allergies and details of any previous bad reactions to medicines
- the name, address, date of birth and NHS number of the patient

This record may be accessed with your permission by relevant healthcare professionals involved in your direct healthcare. If you do not wish to have your SCR available to be shared, please contact the practice so we can update your records. <https://digital.nhs.uk/summary-care-records>

iii. Summary Care Record with Additional information

The inclusion of additional information on a SCR is particularly useful for people with complex or long-term conditions. Due to the sensitivity of more detailed information being accessible on your SCR, you will be asked for your permission to allow additional information to be added to, and accessible on, your SCR.

NHS Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Board ICB)

The ICB manages the majority of contracts for primary care, in order for us to deliver healthcare services to you. At times, they may assist us in the administration of our direct care services through coordination or follow up with organisations about matters relating to your direct healthcare needs. This may include such functions as coordinating community pharmacy services, arranging continuing health care services, contacting a hospital about important discharge information, a diagnostic organisation about a test result, or other health or social care services involved in your care

We have contracts in place with the ICB. This means that they cannot do anything with your personal information unless we have instructed them to. They will only share information about you that is relevant and necessary to fulfil the requirement of a particular service to you. Information about you is only shared with organisations that have a relationship with you or will have a relationship through a referral. They will hold your information securely and retain it for only as long as necessary. If you require further information, please contact the practice or the DPO.

H. Electronic Prescribing Services (EPS)

The practice is upgrading to the latest phase of the Electronic Prescribing Service (EPS). This provides the following options:

You can choose a pharmacy or dispenser to dispense all your prescriptions. If you have already registered a nominated pharmacy or dispenser with us, we will continue to send your electronic prescription to that nominated pharmacy or dispenser. If you do not nominate a pharmacy or dispenser, you can decide each time you are issued a prescription where you would like it to be dispensed or be issued a secure barcode token to take to a pharmacy of your choice where your prescription can be electronically accessed. Your data will be shared securely and in line with data protection legislation, for direct care purposes as outlined in this privacy notice. Further information on the EPS can be found here: [Electronic Prescription Service - NHS England Digital](#)

I. Third Party Technical Support Processors

We use data processors who are third parties, who provide technical administration services for us to deliver health care services to you. We have contracts in place with our data processors for example, our website provider, our waste management provider for the collection, removal and disposal of confidential waste. This means that they cannot do anything with your personal information unless we have instructed them to do it. They will not share your personal information with any organisation apart from us. They will hold it securely and retain it for the period we instruct. If you require further information, please contact our Data Controller at the Practice or our DPO.



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MinuteKidney service collaboration between the practice and Healthy.io

MinuteKidney service for patients with diabetes (and/or other conditions) The data is being processed for the purpose of delivery of a programme to monitor urine for indications of chronic kidney disease (CKD) which is recommended to be undertaken annually for patients at risk of chronic kidney disease e.g., patients living with diabetes.

The programme enables patients to test their kidney function from home. We will share your contact details with Healthy.io to enable them to contact you and send you a test kit. This will help identify patients, e.g. patients living with diabetes and help us agree any early interventions that can be put in place for the benefit of your care.

Healthy.io will only use your data for the purposes of delivering their service to you. If you do not wish to receive a home test kit from Healthy.io we will continue to manage your care within the Practice.

Healthy.io are required to hold data we send them in line with retention periods outlined in the Records Management code of Practice for Health and Social Care. Further information about this is available at: <http://minuteKidney.com/>.

Online Consultation Services

To assist us in our delivery of online direct care services to you, we use external organisation 'Accurx'. Patients registered at this practice can access the secure 'Accurx' portal via our website or via the NHS App. NHS England is a joint data controller with the Practice for online consultation for the purposes of commissioning, contracting and assuring the compliance of e-Consult. NHS England does not access any of your health data. If you access 'Accurx' via the NHS App, NHS Digital is a data controller of personal data relating to your identity verification only. For further information please refer to NHS APP Privacy policy: online consultation services
<https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/nhs-services/the-nhs-app/privacy/online-consultations/>

With your consent, 'Accurx' will process the data you provide and submit your completed consultation back to us for our review and action. Once received, the practice will become data controllers of the completed online consultation, which will become part of your medical record and processed as outlined in this privacy notice for the purpose of providing direct care services to you.

Information about how 'Accurx' processes your data can be found in their privacy notice when you access 'Accurx'. This includes the use of automated decision making and profiling when you complete the online consultation, but this decision is not absolute. You can also: book an appointment directly with the practice for a consultation, fill in another form to provide different/ updated information on the e-Consult website, or provide further information when you speak with your GP.

To ensure compliance with data protection and other relevant legislation, there is a contract in place with 'Accurx' to ensure your data is protected and used for the purposes outlined in the privacy notice.

In the event that the practice receives an 'Accurx' e-consultation where the individual is not registered at the practice, contact will be made to inform the individual of options available. Where the individual is unable to be contacted or will not be registering with the practice, the 'Accurx' e-consultation data will be destroyed in accordance with our retention policy. Further information can be obtained from the practice.

We use the NHS Account Messaging Service provided by NHS England to send you messages relating to your health and care. You need to be an NHS App user to receive these messages. Further information about the service can be found at the **privacy notice for the NHS App** managed by NHS England.

[NHS App privacy policy - NHS App - NHS](#)

Anima Scribe (AI)

We will be using Anima Scribe which is a cloud-based, real-time transcription service for patient consultations to help the practice accurately capture the content of consultations, consent will be gained during the consultation. AI is used within Anima Sessions to suggest potential clinical codes based on the content of the consultation. It does not make diagnosis nor automatically add the information to the clinical record, neither does it action any tasks or next steps following the patient consultation. All data is, as is the case throughout the Anima platform, encrypted in data and at rest, and is stored in the UK. Regular monitoring and audit of AI performance will be implemented. All staff using AI Scribe will receive full training and attend any future refresher sessions.



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4. Non Direct Care Services Where Your Information May Be Used:

Whenever you use a health or care service, such as attending GP appointments, Accident & Emergency, admission to hospital, or using Community Care Services, important information about you is collected to help ensure you get the best possible care and treatment. In addition, this information may also be used by other approved organisations for non-direct care purposes, where there is a lawful 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. Anonymised information (where you cannot be identified) will be used for non-direct care purposes whenever possible. However, as explained in this Privacy Notice, confidential information about your health and care is only used in this way where the law allows and in alignment with the National Data Opt-Out Policy, and would never be used for any other purpose without your permission.

You have the right to object/opt out to your record being shared with anyone who is not involved in the provision of your direct healthcare. However, if there is an overriding legal obligation to share information, we must do so (See Section 3C i.e.: court order, safeguarding etc.). If you wish to enquire further, please contact the practice.

National Data Opt –Out

You have a choice about whether you want your confidential patient information to be used for research and planning. If you are happy with this use of information you do not need to do anything, but if you do choose to opt out, your confidential patient information will still be used to support your individual care and will not affect care and services available to you.

However, if there is an overriding public safety concern or legal requirement to share information, we must do so (See Section 3D).

For further information on the National Data Opt-Out Policy:

<https://www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters>

If you chose to opt out, you can still agree to your data being used for specific purposes i.e. a specific research project.

You can change your mind at any time on the NHS Digital link:

<https://www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters/manage-your-choice/>

This Practice is compliant with the National Data Opt-Out from March 2020 and will use your NHS number to apply your choice in line with the National Data Opt-Out Policy.

Please note: In addition to the National Data Opt-Out, the existing 'type 1' opt-outs will continue to be respected until 2020, when the Department of Health and Social Care will consult with the National Data Guardian. Therefore, until further notice, if you have informed your GP practice that you dissent from the practice sharing your confidential data for purposes beyond your direct care (type 1), your data will not be shared without your expressed permission.

Data being used or shared for purposes beyond individual care does not include your data being shared with insurance companies or used for marketing purposes and data would only be used in this way with your explicit consent.

If you choose to opt out, you can still agree to your data being used for specific purposes i.e: a specific research project, you can change your mind at any time on the NHS Digital link:

<https://www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters/manage-your-choice/>

Please see Section 6E for further information on the right to object.

Non-Direct Care services include organisations such as:

- A. NHS Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Board (ICB)** is the organisation responsible for commissioning (planning, designing and paying for) your NHS services. The ICB is made up of local GPs, health professionals and commissioners, working together with other clinicians and patients to decide how the local NHS budget should be spent. Information provided to the ICB is pseudo-anonymised, meaning the ICB cannot identify the individual. For more information on how the ICB uses your information:

[Privacy notice – Hertfordshire and West Essex NHS ICB](#)



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- B. NHS Digital** Your health records contain confidential patient information, which can be used to help with research and planning. NHS Digital takes the protection of your confidential patient information very seriously and puts measures in place to ensure it is looked after in accordance with good practice, the National Data Opt-out Policy and the law. Whenever possible, information is anonymised. For further information on your choices, including opting out, please see: <https://www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters/manage-your-choice/>

Or

<https://digital.nhs.uk/about-nhs-digital/our-work/keeping-patient-data-safe/how-we-look-after-your-health-and-care-information/your-information-choices/opting-out-of-sharing-your-confidential-patient-information>

C. Care Quality Commission Access to Health Records

CQC has powers under the Health and Social Care Act 2008 to access and use your health information where it is necessary to carry out their functions as a regulator. This means that inspectors may ask to look at certain records to decide whether we are providing safe, good quality care.

<https://www.cqc.org.uk/about-us/our-policies/privacy-statement#public>

D. Research Organisations

Health and social care research may be conducted by organisations commissioned by the NHS, other health and social care organisations, universities, or commercial research partners for such purposes as developing new treatments and improving healthcare outcomes. If through Case Findings (see section 4A), and where you have not previously objected, we would contact you to determine if you would like to participate with a research project. We always ensure that data protection and confidentiality laws were followed to protect your data, and information about you will not be shared with research organisations without following the National Data Opt-out Policy.

- E.** For the purposes of complying with the law as explained in section 3C.

- F.** Anyone you have given your consent 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 may need to contact you to verify/clarify your consent before we release the record. It is important to us that you are clear and understand how much information and what aspects of your record will be released.

5. Individual Rights

The Law gives you certain rights about your personal and healthcare information that we hold.

We have one calendar month to reply to you and give you the information that you require or explain why we are unable to fulfil your request. We would ask, therefore, that any requests you make is in writing or verbal requests followed up in writing, so it is as clear as possible what you are requesting. This will prevent unnecessary delays in getting a response to you.

A. Subject Access Requests (SAR)

You have the right to see what information we hold about you and to request a copy of this information. Under special circumstances, which have an overriding legal basis, some information may be withheld.

Sometimes information about third parties mentioned by you or others may be recorded on your records. 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, but not limited to: spouses, partners, and other family members.

A subject access request can be made in writing or verbally, but we will need to verify who you are. Please use the following contact at the GP Practice to make your request: Subject Access Request Lead.

We will provide this information free of charge however, we may in some **limited and exceptional** circumstances have to apply a reasonable administrative charge for any extra copies or repetitive requests. If applicable, we will discuss this with you at the time of your request.

If you have consented to a third party to request a SAR on your behalf, we require the third party to supply us with your consent. Due to the confidentiality and sensitivity of health records, if we are unsure about the consent provided or think you may not be aware of the extent of what would be disclosed in the request, we may contact to review and confirm the request with you before the SAR is processed.



Helix Medical Centre

Herts & Essex Hospital, Cavell Drive, Haymeads Lane
Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM23 5JH.
Tel: 01279 594450

If online access is a service available at the practice, there are robust protocols necessary for security of this information. When we give you online access or provide you with a SAR via another means, the responsibility is yours to make sure that you keep your information safe and secure if you do not wish any third party to gain access to it.

Access Requests for Deceased Patient Records: This is not managed under the data protection legislation. The Access to Health Records Act 1990 includes this access. Requests to access should be made to the Primary Care Services England. [Accessing medical records and patient details | PCSE](#)

B. Right to Restriction of Processing

You have the right to request we restrict processing your information while the accuracy, lawful basis, or the legitimate use of the information is being reviewed.

C. Right to Rectification/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 or any of your dependant's contact details, including your mobile phone number has changed.

You have the right to have any mistakes or errors corrected. However, we are not aware of any circumstances in which you will have the right to delete information from your health record that is deemed accurate at the time of entry. Please contact us if you hold a different view.

D. Right to be Forgotten

The right is typically not available because the primary conditions we rely upon for processing your information for services are: for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest, or for reasons of public health in accordance with Art. 9(2) (h) or (i). If there are instances of a specific processing activity where you believe the lawful basis allows the right to be forgotten, please contact the practice to review your request.

E. Right to Objection

You have the right to object to your information being shared outside of the practice; however, you are not able to object to your name, address and other demographic information being sent to NHS Digital. This is necessary if you wish to be registered to receive NHS care.

If you do not want your personal information to be shared and used for purposes other than your direct care and treatment, then you should contact the practice and ask for further information about how to register your objections. This should not affect the care and treatment you receive.

You can object to processing of your information at the practice; however, this would prevent us for providing you with any further healthcare services.

Please note that there may be times where there are legitimate legal grounds that override the objection of an individual i.e.: a legal obligation that the data controller must comply with or for the establishment, exercise or defence of legal claims.

F. Right to Portability

The right to request portability is only available where the processing is based on Data Protection legislation lawful basis of consent or contract and the processing is automated. These are typically not the lawful bases relied on in primary care services and are not the lawful bases used by this practice.

If there are instances of a specific processing activity where you believe the lawful basis allows the right to portability, please contact the practice to review your request.

6. How Long Do We Keep Your Information

In line with the most current NHS Digital Records Management Code of Practice for Health and Social Care, we will retain/store your health record for as long as necessary to provide the services set out in this Privacy Notice. If you move away and register with another practice, we will send your records to the new practice in accordance with NHS guidelines.

For further information, please contact the practice.



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7. Our Website

The only website this Privacy Notice applies to is the GP practice's website. If you use a link to any other website from the Practices' website, then you will need to read their respective privacy notice. We take no responsibility (legal or otherwise) for the content of other websites.

8. Cookies

The Practice's website uses cookies. For more information on which cookies we use and how we use them, please ask for a copy of our Cookies Policy.

9. Wi-Fi

For the use of our visitors via a third-party provider as part of an NHS initiative. The practice will have no access to the data held or control over Wi-Fi usage. Patients wishing to obtain access to Wi-Fi would do so via name and password, where terms and conditions of use will be available.

12. Data Security

We take the security of your information very seriously and we do everything we can to ensure that your information is always protected and secure.

We regularly update our processes and systems, and we also ensure that our staff members complete regular training on data protection. We also carry out assessments and audits of the information that we hold about you, and we make sure that if we are considering providing new services, we carry out security assessments to ensure measures are put in place to protect your data.

13. Organisational Security

A. Lawful Basis

The purpose for processing the information is for quality, security and safety reasons. The lawful basis we rely on to process your personal data is article 6(1)(f) of the GDPR, which allows us to process personal data when it's necessary for the purposes of our legitimate interests.

14. Where to find our Privacy Notice

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

15. Changes to our Privacy Notice

We regularly review and update our Privacy Notice. This Privacy Notice was last updated on **08.05.25**

Please note: If English is not your first language, you may be able to request a translation of this Privacy Notice from the practice.