

## ***If I do not have a Summary Care Record***

You have decided that you do not want to have a Summary Care Record. The NHS will do its best to provide you with safe, efficient care whether or not you have a Summary Care Record. The purpose of this information sheet is to ensure that you are clear what your decision could mean for your NHS care.

The Summary Care Record's purpose is to ensure that anyone treating you has basic but important information about you – especially when care is unplanned, urgent or during evenings and weekends.

At first your Summary Care Record will contain key health information such as details of allergies, current prescriptions and bad reactions to medicines. In the future, each time you use any NHS health services, details about any current health problems, summaries of your care and the healthcare staff treating you may be added to your Summary Care Record. As new information is added to your record you can discuss what is being added and how sensitive information is handled. If you choose to have a Summary Care Record, you will be asked if staff can look at it every time they need to.

The information in your Summary Care Record could save you and the NHS time, but could also one day be lifesaving.

With a Summary Care Record doctors and nurses would know at a crucial time:

- what medications you are taking, especially if they are many and complex
- what medications have not agreed with you in the past
- whether you have any allergies
- that new medications they prescribe may react badly with things you are already taking
- that you have a condition that means you shouldn't have certain medicines

In addition, you would have the benefits of:

- 24 hour access to your own Summary Care Record to check it for errors and to see what those who are treating you have recorded, if you chose to view it through HealthSpace
- peace of mind that wherever in England you needed care, anyone treating you would have essential information even if you were distressed or didn't remember details

And later on, as your Summary Care Record develops you may be able to use it to:

- see summaries of other episodes of care, for example a discharge summary from a hospital
- remind yourself about important things said to you about your treatment
- inform NHS staff about your needs and how you want to be treated



## RISKS AND PROTECTIONS

**Staff disclosing information.** The NHS already shares information widely and most NHS staff are honest and trustworthy. There are occasional problems with staff accessing records and disclosing information inappropriately. With the new NHS systems, the number of staff who will have an opportunity to look at your clinical records when they shouldn't will be greatly reduced. Only staff with special security cards can log onto the new NHS systems. This allows the NHS to track precisely who has done or seen what – and you can ask for this information. Unlike today, staff will have to be involved in your care to access your records and they will only see information appropriate to their role. You will be asked if staff can look at your Summary Care Record every time they need to.

**Hackers.** Safeguards that will protect the Summary Care Record from hackers have been designed by security experts. They are far stronger than the safeguards in place anywhere within the NHS today.

**Wrong information.** It is important that the information about you is accurate. All data that goes into a Summary Care Record will have to pass quality controls. Once you could access it, you too could check it and point out any remaining errors.

**Access by the state.** No other part of government would have direct access to your Summary Care Record. As now, any information from your record that the NHS gives to others, such as the police, would be very strictly limited by law. In fact, the Summary Care Record gives the opportunity to improve things by ensuring that any such disclosures follow consistent procedures and are recorded and monitored.

**More control by the patient.** The greatest safeguards for your Summary Care Record are that you will be able to see it yourself, know who else has seen it, and have more control than ever before over what it contains and who has access. You can ask for it to appear as a blank screen, or ask for information to be removed or not added in the first place. Later on, additional controls will allow you to let staff see some parts of your Summary Care Record, but not others.

We hope that the information provided has made clear the practical results of your decision. Please be assured that the Department of Health is committed to honouring your decision and doing all it can to ensure you get the best healthcare possible. You can, of course, change your mind at any time. We urge you to review your decision from time to time.

***If you feel unsure about whether or not to have a Summary Care Record, or would like further information, please make contact the NHS Care Records Information line on 0845 603 8510 or the NHS Stoke on Trent Patient Advice and Liaison Service on 0800 783 2865.***



## NHS Stoke on Trent

### Request for all clinical data to be withheld from the Summary Care Record.

To be completed by the individual (data subject) making the request. Please complete in **BLOCK CAPITALS**.

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Surname / Family Name \_\_\_\_\_

Forename(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Tel No \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

NHS Number (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

(Your NHS Number can be found on the Summary Care Record notification letter or from you GP surgery)

#### What does it mean if I DO NOT have a Summary Care Record?

- Healthcare staff treating you may not be aware of your current medications in order to treat you safely and effectively
- Healthcare staff treating you may not be made aware of current conditions and/or diagnoses leading to a delay or missed opportunity for correct treatment
- Healthcare staff may not be aware of any allergies/adverse reactions to medications and may prescribe or administer a drug/treatment with adverse consequences

If you have any questions, or if you wish to discuss your choices or concerns, please telephone the **NHS Care Records Service Information Line** on **0845 603 8510**.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Actioned by Practice:	Date:
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**Please return this form to the GP Practice where you are registered.**

