

Privacy Notice - Covid-19 and Your Information (April 2020)

This notice describes how we may use your information to protect you and others during the Covid-19 pandemic. It supplements our main 'Patients and Public Privacy Notice' which is available for you to view at <https://healthierwigan.nhs.uk/contact-us/privacy-notice/>.

The health and social care system is facing significant pressures due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Health and care information is essential to deliver care to individuals, to support health and social care services and to protect public health. Information will also be vital in researching, monitoring, tracking and managing the pandemic. In the current emergency it has become even more important to share health and care information across relevant organisations.

Existing laws, which allows confidential patient information to be used and shared appropriately and lawfully in a public health emergency, is being used during this pandemic. Using this law the Secretary of State has required NHS Digital; NHS England and Improvement; Arms Length Bodies (such as Public Health England); local authorities; health organisations and GPs to share confidential patient information to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic. Any information used or shared during the Covid-19 pandemic will be limited to the period of the pandemic unless there is another legal basis to use the data. Further information is available on gov.uk [here](#) and some FAQs on this law are available [here](#).

In general as a commissioning organisation we do not process / hold much confidential personal information. However, that being said we recognise we have teams within the CCG that will process personal information due to the nature of their role. They are; the NHS Continuing Healthcare (CHC) Team, the Individual Funding Request (IFR) Team, Safeguarding and Medicines Management.

Please note that during this time it may also take us longer to respond to 'Right of Access' requests (also known as Subject Access requests) and Freedom of Information requests whilst we focus our efforts on responding to the pandemic.

In order to look after your health and care needs we may share your confidential patient information with other organisations. We may also be required to share personal confidential information with other organisations and other bodies engaged in disease surveillance for the purposes of protecting public health, providing healthcare services to the public and monitoring and managing the pandemic. Further information about how health and care data is being used and shared by other NHS and social care organisations in a variety of ways to support the Covid-19 response is [here](#).

We may also use the details we have to send public health messages to you, either by phone, text or email.



Wigan Borough Clinical Commissioning Group

NHS England and Improvement and NHSX have developed a single, secure store to gather data from across the health and care system to inform the Covid-19 response. This includes data already collected by NHS England, NHS Improvement, Public Health England and NHS Digital. New data will include 999 call data, data about hospital occupancy and A&E capacity data as well as data provided by patients themselves. All the data held in the platform is subject to strict controls that meet the requirements of data protection legislation.

In such circumstances where you tell us you're experiencing Covid-19 symptoms and this is highlighted via one of our team we may need to collect specific health data about you. Where we need to do so, we will not collect more information than we require and we will ensure that any information collected is treated with the appropriate safeguards.

We may amend this privacy notice at any time so please review it frequently.

We hope that this Privacy Notice has been helpful in explaining how we may need to share your information in regards to the Covid-19 pandemic. If you have any further queries / or would like further information please visit the Information Commissioners (ICO) website at: <https://ico.org.uk/global/data-protection-and-coronavirus-information-hub/>

Or contact us at:

<https://healthierwigan.nhs.uk/contact-us/>