

Consent

We consider that patients attending this practice expect that information provided will be used only to assist in managing their health care. We also consider that patients would reasonably expect that selected personal health details will be disclosed to other health services directly involved in providing a health service to the individual. For example, if a blood sample is taken, we anticipate that the patient would reasonably expect that the pathology service provider will receive details clearly identifying who the sample was taken from (patient name, contact details, date of birth) and what tests the doctor is requesting be conducted on the sample.

If you are concerned about any related secondary use or disclosure of your personal health information you should speak to your doctor about your concerns.

Should I sign a consent form?

By signing consent to the use and disclosure of your personal health information you can assist the practice to ensure that necessary information is available to those involved in your health care when it is needed.

Definitions

Health information means:

- (a) information or an opinion about:
 - (i) the health or a disability (at any time) of an individual; or
 - (ii) an individual's expressed wishes about the future provision of health services to him or her; or
 - (iii) a health service provided, or to be provided, to an individual; that is also personal information; or
- (b) other personal information collected to provide, or in providing, a health service; or
- (c) other personal information about an individual collected in connection with the donation, or intended donation, by the individual of his or her body parts, organs or body substances.

Health service means:

- (a) an activity performed in relation to an individual that is intended or claimed (expressly or otherwise) by the individual or the person performing it:
 - (i) to assess, record, maintain or improve the individual's health; or
 - (ii) to diagnose the individual's illness or disability; or
 - (iii) to treat the individual's illness or disability or suspected illness or disability; or
- (b) the dispensing on prescription of a drug or medicinal preparation by a pharmacist



Your Privacy, is our Concern

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE COLLECT YOUR INFORMATION

Your medical record is a confidential document. It is the policy of the practice to maintain security of personal health information at all times and to insure that this information is only available to

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authorised members of staff. If you have any concerns please speak to your Doctor or Practice Manager.

ACCESS TO YOUR INFORMATION

You can access your personal health information held by the practice. If you need access to your records, practice staff can advise you regarding the process and any costs involved.

We will only collect information necessary for providing you with a health service.

Where practical we will only collect information directly from you.

We seek your assistance to ensure that information we hold about you is accurate and up to date.



WITH WHOM WE DISCLOSE YOUR INFORMATION

To provide you with a quality health service we may disclose selected personal health information to others involved in your treatment and care, such as:

- A treating hospital
- Specialist
- Pathology provider
- Provider of medical imaging services (eg. x-ray)
- Pharmacist
- Dietician, physiotherapist or other allied health practitioner

We only disclose those details necessary for you to receive appropriate care from the health service concerned.

Limited information, (for billing or public health registers) must be disclosed by law to government bodies overseeing the provision of public health services: for example, for billing purposes we are required to provide the Health Insurance Commission (HIC) a Medicare number in connection with the type of medical service we provide you.

RESPECTING YOUR PRIVACY

Our 'Privacy Policy' underpins our handling of privacy issues.

Our staff and GPs are trained in good privacy practice.

Patient privacy information is available from the practice

Our informed and caring staff and GPs can advise you on your privacy concerns

If you have concerns about the way staff or doctors are handling your privacy or need to access your information, speak to our practice staff or your doctor, as appropriate.

