

## COVID-19 Privacy Notice

This Privacy Notice is to run alongside our existing Patient and Customer Privacy Notice.

Due to the unprecedented challenges that the NHS and we, Operose Health face due to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, there is a greater need for public bodies to require additional collection and sharing of personal data to protect against serious threats to public health.

In order to look after your healthcare needs in the most efficient way we, Operose Health may therefore need to share your personal information, including health records, with staff from other GP Practices including Practices within our Primary Care Network, as well as other health organisations (i.e. Clinical Commissioning Groups, Commissioning Support Units, Local authorities etc.) and bodies (such as NHS Digital – refer to pages 4 - 6 for further details) engaged in disease surveillance for the purposes of research, protecting public health, providing healthcare services to the public and monitoring and managing the Covid-19 outbreak and incidents of exposure.

The Secretary of State has served notice under Regulation 3(4) of the **Health Service (Control of Patient Information) Regulations 2002 (COPI)** to require organisations to process confidential patient information in the manner set out below for purposes set out in Regulation 3(1) of COPI.

### **Purpose of this Notice**

The purpose of this Notice is to require organisations such as Operose Health to process confidential patient information for the purposes set out in Regulation 3(1) of COPI to support the Secretary of State's response to Covid-19 (Covid-19 Purpose). "Processing" for these purposes is defined in Regulation 3(2) and includes dissemination of confidential patient information to persons and organisations permitted to process confidential patient information under Regulation 3(3) of COPI.

This Notice is necessary to require organisations such as Operose Health to lawfully and efficiently process confidential patient information as set out in Regulation 3(2) of COPI for purposes defined in regulation 3(1), for the purposes of research, protecting public health, providing healthcare services to the public and monitoring and managing the Covid-19 outbreak and incidents of exposure.

### **Requirement to process patient information**

The Secretary of State has served notice to recipients under Regulation 3(4) that requires Operose Health to process confidential patient information, including disseminating to a person or organisation permitted to process confidential patient information under Regulation 3(3) of COPI.

Operose Health is 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 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

## **Covid-19 purposes**

A Covid-19 purpose includes but is not limited to the following:

- understanding Covid-19 and risks to public health, trends in Covid-19 and such risks, and controlling and preventing the spread of Covid-19 and such risks
- 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, diagnosis, self-isolation, fitness to work, treatment, medical and social interventions and recovery from Covid-19
- 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
- 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.

## **Recording of processing**

A record will be kept by Operose Health of all data processed under this Notice.

## **Sending public health messages**

Data protection and electronic communication laws will not stop Operose Health from sending public health messages to you, either by phone, text or email as these messages are not direct marketing.

## **Digital consultations**

It may also be necessary, where the latest technology allows Operose Health to do so, to use your information and health data to facilitate digital consultations and diagnoses and we will always do this with your security in mind.

## **Visitors to Operose Health**

We have an obligation to protect our staff and employees' health, so it is reasonable for staff at Operose Health to ask any visitors to our practice or service we provide to tell us if they have visited a particular country, or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

This must only be in pre-approved circumstances and we would also ask all patients to consider government advice on the NHS 111 website and not attend on site.

Where it is necessary for us to collect information and specific health data about visitors to our practice or other services we provide, we will not collect more information than we need, and we will ensure that any information collected is treated with the appropriate safeguards.

### **Review and expiry of this Notice**

This Notice will be reviewed on or before 30 September 2020 and may be extended by The Secretary of State.

If no further notice is sent to Operose Health by The Secretary of State this Notice will expire on 30 September 2020.

## **General Practice Transparency Notice for General Practice Extraction Service (GPES) Data for Pandemic Planning and Research (COVID-19)**

Operose Health is supporting vital coronavirus (COVID-19) planning and research by sharing your data with NHS Digital.

The health and social care system is facing significant pressures due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Health and care information is essential to deliver care to individuals, to support health, social care and other public services and to protect public health. Information will also be vital in researching, monitoring, tracking and managing the coronavirus outbreak. In the current emergency it has become even more important to share health and care information across relevant organisations. Operose Health is supporting vital coronavirus planning and research by sharing your data with NHS Digital, the national safe haven for health and social care data in England.

### **Our legal basis for sharing data with NHS Digital**

NHS Digital has been legally directed to collect and analyse patient data from all GP practices in England to support the coronavirus response for the duration of the outbreak. NHS Digital will become the controller under the General Data Protection Regulation 2016 (GDPR) of the personal data collected and analysed jointly with the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, who has directed NHS Digital to collect and analyse this data under the [COVID-19 Public Health Directions 2020](#) (COVID-19 Direction).

All GP practices in England are legally required to share data with NHS Digital for this purpose under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 (2012 Act). More information about this requirement is contained in the [data provision notice issued by NHS Digital to GP practices](#).

Under GDPR our legal basis for sharing this personal data with NHS Digital is Article 6(1)(c) - legal obligation. Our legal basis for sharing personal data relating to health, is Article 9(2)(g) – substantial public interest, for the purposes of NHS Digital exercising its statutory functions under the COVID-19 Direction.

### **The type of personal data we are sharing with NHS Digital**

The data being shared with NHS Digital will include information about patients who are currently registered with a GP practice or who have a date of death on or after 1 November 2019 whose record contains coded information relevant to coronavirus planning and research. The data contains NHS Number, postcode, address, surname, forename, sex, ethnicity, date of birth and date of death for those patients. It will also include coded health data which is held in your GP record such as details of:

- diagnoses and findings
- medications and other prescribed items
- investigations, tests and results
- treatments and outcomes
- vaccinations and immunisations

### **How NHS Digital will use and share your data**

NHS Digital will analyse the data they collect and securely and lawfully share data with other appropriate organisations, including health and care organisations, bodies engaged in disease surveillance and research organisations for coronavirus response purposes only. These purposes include protecting public health, planning and providing health, social care and

public services, identifying coronavirus trends and risks to public health, monitoring and managing the outbreak and carrying out of vital coronavirus research and clinical trials. The British Medical Association, the Royal College of General Practitioners and the National Data Guardian are all supportive of this initiative.

NHS Digital has various legal powers to share data for purposes relating to the coronavirus response. It is also required to share data in certain circumstances set out in the COVID-19 Direction and to share [confidential patient information to support the response under a legal notice](#) issued to it by the Secretary of State under the Health Service (Control of Patient Information) Regulations 2002 (COPI Regulations).

[Legal notices](#) under the COPI Regulations have also been issued to other health and social care organisations requiring those organisations to process and share confidential patient information to respond to the coronavirus outbreak. Any information used or shared during the outbreak under these legal notices or the COPI Regulations will be limited to the period of the outbreak unless there is another legal basis for organisations to continue to use the information.

Data which is shared by NHS Digital will be subject to robust rules relating to privacy, security and confidentiality and only the minimum amount of data necessary to achieve the coronavirus purpose will be shared. Organisations using your data will also need to have a clear legal basis to do so and will enter into a data sharing agreement with NHS Digital. Information about the data that NHS Digital shares, including who with and for what purpose will be published in the NHS Digital [data release register](#).

For more information about how NHS Digital will use your data please see the [NHS Digital Transparency Notice for GP Data for Pandemic Planning and Research \(COVID-19\)](#).

### **National Data Opt-Out**

The application of the [National Data Opt-Out](#) to information shared by NHS Digital will be considered on a case by case basis and may or may not apply depending on the specific purposes for which the data is to be used. This is because during this period of emergency, the National Data Opt-Out will not generally apply where data is used to support the coronavirus outbreak, due to the public interest and legal requirements to share information.

### **Your rights over your personal data**

To read more about the health and care information NHS Digital collects, its legal basis for collecting this information and what choices and rights you have in relation to the processing by NHS Digital of your personal data, see:

- the [NHS Digital GPES Data for Pandemic Planning and Research \(COVID-19\) Transparency Notice](#)
- the [NHS Digital Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Response Transparency Notice](#)
- the [NHS Digital General Transparency Notice](#)
- [how NHS Digital looks after your health and care information](#)