

Our Vision

We provide compassionate care
with our community, in our community.

Protecting and Using Your Information


Information for Patients and Service users

Processing of Personal Information

If you would like to give feedback on
any of our services please contact:

Email: user.feedback@northerntrust.hscni.net

Telephone: 028 9442 4655

 Northern Health and Social Care Trust

 @NHSCTrust

www.northerntrust.hscni.net

Reviewed November 2023



Introduction

In order for Northern Health & Social Care Trust to help provide a service for you we need to know some information about you. Personal information that we process about you is governed by Data Protection legislation.

What information is collected?

We only collect the information we need to. This will include your name, address, date of birth, contact details and relevant health and social care history. We may need to collect information about you from other people, for example, your family, carers, other health professionals, or if necessary, other external agencies.

How is it collected?

Information you provide to us is recorded in your personal paper file and also on our computer systems. This can include information you provide in person, on an official form (either online or in paper form) by telephone, or by information recorded on CCTV cameras that operate within the Trust.

What do we do with your information?

We collect this information to assist us in treating you and in planning health and social care services for you. Other reasons your information may be used include:

- To communicate with you by post, email, phone or text.

- Helping to review the care given to you to ensure it is of the highest standard. This is done through internal audits of our standards or external inspections of our services.
- Training and educating staff or for audit purposes.
- Looking after the health and social welfare of the general public.
- Investigating complaints or legal claims.
- Preparing statistics on the Trust's activity and performance.
- Providing anonymised data, for example to the Department of Health, the Public Health Agency for the planning of services.

Who will my information be shared with?

To help us provide the best care or service for you, we may need to share your information with authorised individuals directly involved in your health and/or social care. This may include doctors, nurses, social workers and other allied health professionals. We only ever do this if it is needed in your interests. Your relatives, friends and carers may be given information about you, but only if you agree, or in circumstances where it is necessary to ensure your health and well-being or where there are safeguarding concerns.

Your information may also be used in a way that does not identify you, for example, to help identify trends such as increases in certain diseases. Other processing of your personal data will only be done with the appropriate lawful basis, such as consent for research.



Will it be shared with anyone else?

There may be occasions where your information can be shared with other organisations without your consent but this will only happen when it is :-

- Required by law
- Required by a court order
- Necessary to detect or prevent crime, including allegations or suspicions of fraud
- Necessary to protect the public from serious harm, e.g. the protection of vulnerable adults
- Required for monitoring certain health conditions, e.g. by the Public Health Agency (PHA) or Department of Health
- Monitoring of deaths, for example review of hospital deaths or for organ donation purposes

Where necessary, we will anonymise data before sharing with others.

How will it affect me if I do not want to provide information?

It is important to remember that the purpose of using your information is to provide you with safe, fast and effective services. Not providing information may have a significant effect on the appropriate care and protection that we and others provide to you.

Security of your information

At the Northern Health & Social Care Trust we take your privacy seriously. Staff will only access your information

on a strict 'need to know' basis or when they are involved with you/your family during your period of care. All staff have a legal duty to keep your information safe and confidential, as does anyone who receives information about you from the Trust. In line with legislation the Trust has a range of measures and strict standards to protect paper and electronically held information.

We will not transfer your data to other countries outside the UK without an appropriate lawful basis for doing so and that the information is secured in a way that safeguards it during and after transfer to the country receiving it.

How long will my information be retained for?

We will retain your information in line with specific guidance issued by the Department of Health in Northern Ireland. The length of time we keep your information for will depend on the types of records created for your care. If you want to find out more about how long your records are retained, you can ask staff or view the "Good Management, Good Records" section under "Disposal Schedule" on Department of Health's website.

Keeping your information up-to-date

It is very important that the information we hold about you is correct and up-to-date. You can help us to do that by telling us of any changes. Please tell us if you move house, change your GP, change your name or telephone number.



Your Rights

Data Protection legislation gives you the right to request copies of the personal information the Trust holds about you and a right to take action to correct any factually inaccurate information. You also have a right to take action if you feel you have suffered damage and distress due to the Trust's use of your information. See the ICO website (link provided below) for more information about your rights under the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR).

How do I see my information?

If you want to see the information we hold about you or ask about how we use it, you can speak to the staff currently involved with you/your family or you can request a copy of your information. See the Trust's website for further details on how you can apply for a copy of your health and social care information.

Requests will be responded to as quickly as possible and usually within one month; however, the UK GDPR allows up to 3 months for providing a response to requests that may be considered complex. Generally there is no charge for copies of records except where the request is manifestly unfounded or excessive or is a repeat request.

Is there any information that I cannot see?

There are occasions when other people have provided information relating to the service we provide for you. In some cases there may also be information in your notes about other people that is their personal information. We have a duty to keep certain information confidential and may not be able to share it with you.

Where can I find more information?

The conditions that ensure the Trust processes your personal information lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner are set out in Article 6 and Article 9 of the UK GDPR. These conditions include, for example, complying with our legal obligations, to meet the vital interests of service users, for public health purposes and to fulfil our public duty to provide health and social care services and manage our systems.

If you want to know more about how we use your information, if you are unhappy with any aspect about how we use your information or comply with your request, you can contact the Trust's Data Protection Officer at the following address:-

Information Governance
Department Causeway House
8e Coleraine Road
Ballymoney
BT53 6BP
Email: info.governance@northerntrust.hscni.net
Tel: 028 2766 1293

If you have any further concerns or queries on how your personal data is being processed you can contact the Information Commissioner's Office.

Information Commissioner's
Office Wycliffe House
Water Lane Wilmslow Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545 745
Web: <https://ico.org.uk>

