

Remember, you can opt out of sharing any of your medical information with local health care staff. Please speak to your GP if you have concerns.



*Central Lancashire*

# To care we need to Share

Allowing us to share some of your personal medical information will ensure better health care outside of your GP practice...

Primary Care Trusts working together with our health care providers across Central Lancashire

Doctors, nurses and other health care professionals rely on good communication with their patients – and each other – to provide top-quality care. As part of our continual approach to improving the service you receive we aim to improve communication with a new way to share vital, personal medical information.

In the past, there has been no way for a healthcare professional working in

Accident and Emergency (A&E), an out-of-hours GP or any other doctor or nurse outside of a GP practice involved in caring for you, to know about ongoing medical conditions you have, or even what medication you are taking.

They simply have had to take the patients word for it – and patients needing treatment can be confused, in pain or unconscious. Central Lancashire GPs and the Primary Care Trust is working with local NHS care providers to implement a scheme allowing doctors and nurses in various care settings, including A&E and out-of-hours surgeries, to view restricted but vital information held on a GP practice's computer system. This could include medication lists, important allergies and major illnesses.

**Patient safety and confidentiality are our most important concerns and patients can choose not to allow a doctor or nurse to see their medical record by saying 'no' when their permission is requested. You can also opt out of sharing any information with anybody outside your own GP practice at any time. If you need further help please discuss this with your GP.**

Both you and your GP practice will need to give consent for this information sharing to occur. Only health care workers actively involved in your care can see your medical record summary and only for a limited time. You will be asked for consent to do this at every consultation. Every care is being taken to protect your confidentiality and all information is stored securely.

In time, the computer technology used here could be rolled-out across wider parts of the NHS in Central Lancashire, allowing other community health care staff, such as District Nurses and hospital doctors, secure access to the medical records of the patients in their care and allowing more services to be delivered in the community, closer to patients homes. You will usually be asked for your permission before this happens (unless you are unconscious).