

This pamphlet explains how personal information about you and your health is recorded and managed in our practice. We also have a written privacy policy describing how we manage personal information, this is displayed in the waiting room and available at Reception.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

The 'personal information' we collect includes your name, date of birth, address/es, contact details, Medicare number, healthcare identifiers and health fund details. Medical information may include medical history and any care you may need. GPs need information about your past and present health in order to provide you with high-quality care.

Our Practice follows the guidelines of the RACGP's Handbook for the management of health information in General Practice 5th edition (the Handbook). The Handbook incorporates federal and state privacy legislation, and the Australian Privacy Principles, which requires that your personal information is kept private and secure.

YOUR MEDICAL RECORDS

This practice takes steps to ensure that your medical records:

- are accurate, complete, well-organised and legible;
- are up-to-date;
- contain enough information to allow another GP to care for you;
- contain a summary of your care; and
- can be used to remind you, with your permission, to return for follow up, check-ups and reviews.

If you are uncertain why information is being requested, please ask your GP or the Practice staff.

If you wish to remain anonymous while accessing healthcare services, please talk to the Practice staff.

INFORMATION TO OTHERS

In this Practice, it is normal for all GPs to have access to your medical records. If you have any concerns about this, please discuss them with your GP.

GPs respect your right to decide how your personal information is used or shared. For example, this may be sharing your health information with specialist doctors. Personal information that identifies you will only be sent to other people with your consent, unless there are exceptional circumstances. Gaining your consent is the guiding principle used by this practice in using and sharing your information.

Our Practice will not share your personal health information with anyone else or another organisation unless:

- you have consented to this sharing, or
- they are legally obliged to disclose the information, in which case your GP will first discuss with you the information that she or he is legally obliged to disclose, or
- the information is necessary for you to obtain Medicare payments or other health insurance rebates, or
- there is an overriding public health and safety interest in the release of the information.

In the above cases, only information necessary to meet the requirements will be provided.

Your health information will not ordinarily be sent overseas unless:

- you are informed and provide consent for this to occur; and
- the overseas country receiving the information has similar Principles to the Australian Privacy Principles.

ACCESS TO YOUR MEDICAL RECORDS

You may ask your doctor about any aspect of your health care, including information contained in your record. You can request access to your medical record and any other information the practice records about you.

If you request access to your medical record, your GP will need to consider if there may be a risk of physical or mental harm to you or any other person that may result from disclosure of your health information. Your GP may need to remove any information that will affect the privacy of other individuals.

Sharing information is important for good communication between you and practice staff. Your GP is able to provide a full explanation of the health summary or medical record you are provided access to.

Depending on what is involved, you may be asked to contribute to the cost of providing the information.

DIRECT MARKETING

This practice does not engage in direct marketing.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AND RESEARCH

This Practice may use patient health information to assist in improving the quality of care we give to all our patients, by reviewing the treatments used in the practice.

Your information held by the practice may be used in research projects to improve healthcare in the community; however, this information will not include data that can identify you.

SECURITY OF INFORMATION

The information used for research, including the publication of research results, will not be in a form that would allow you to be identified, unless the research serves an important public interest. In such cases, identifiable medical records can be used for medical research without your consent under guidelines issued by the Australian Government. Before providing such identified information, your GP will discuss with you the information that she or he is obliged to disclose.

RESOLVING CONCERNS

If you have any concerns regarding the privacy of your personal health information or the accuracy of the information held by the practice, you should discuss them with Practice Staff.

Inaccurate information can be corrected or your concerns noted in your record. For legal reasons, the original notes will be retained.

CONTACTS

If you have questions or a complaint about the privacy of your personal information, please ask to speak to the **Practice Manager**

or contact

Information and Privacy Commission
New South Wales – 1800 472 679
www.ipc.nsw.gov.au/privacy/ipc_index.html

Office of the Australian Information Commissioner
1300 363 992
www.oaic.gov.au

A copy of our privacy policy is available in the waiting room or ask at Reception.

*Reference: Privacy Policy template RACGP May 2014
Review date : May 2019
Next review date : May 2021 or as advised by RACGP*



***Keeping your
personal
information
private in our
practice***

May 2019