

The Summary Care Record

What is happening?

The NHS has introduced Summary Care Records (SCRs), as part of the NHS Care Records Service, to improve the safety and quality of patient care. SCRs will give health-care staff faster, easier access to reliable information about you to help with your treatment. Today, records are kept in all the places where you receive care. These organisations can usually only share information from your records by letter, email, fax or phone during working hours. Now there will be quicker ways to get important information to the NHS staff treating you, including in an emergency and when you use out-of-hours services when your GP practice is closed.

About your SCR

You will have a SCR, which will be available to people providing you with care anywhere in England. At first, your SCR will contain important information about your health, such as details of any allergies, your current prescriptions and whether you have had any bad reactions to medicines. After that, each time you use any NHS health service, details about any health problems, summaries of your care and the professionals treating you may be added to your SCR.

You can look at your SCR at any time at a secure website called HealthSpace (www.healthspace.nhs.uk). You must register for HealthSpace to keep it as secure as possible.

What must I do?

From 29 September 2014 Upton Group Practice will be part of the SCR system and patients who are already registered with us will have a SCR if they have not already opted out of this by completing an opt out form. New patients registering with our practice may already have had a SCR in their previous practice or may wish to consider their options.

- You can choose to have a SCR and if you do NHS staff who treat you will ask you if they can look at it every time they need to.
- You can choose not to have a SCR and as we process your registration we will code your records that we hold here at the surgery so that they are not uploaded to the SCR.

If you choose not to have a SCR your care within the NHS should not be prejudiced in anyway. You can also decide to opt in to have a SCR at any time in the future should you decide to change your mind.

If you decide after we have created your SCR that you do not want it, we will 'hide' your record to make sure that health-care staff who try to access it will not be able to see it. It is possible to apply to have your record deleted rather than hidden, but that will probably not be possible if the record has already been used to give you care and details have been added.

If you would like to know more before you decide whether or not to have a record, you can get more information in the following ways.

Get a copy of the leaflets 'Your health information, Confidentiality and the NHS Care Records Service' and 'The NHS Care Record Guarantee for England' from the website <https://digital.nhs.uk/summary-care-records> or phone 0300 123 3020.

For leaflets in other languages and formats, such as in Braille, go to the website <https://digital.nhs.uk/summary-care-records> or phone 0300 123 3020.

If you wish to opt out of the Summary Care Record you can fill in the "Three schemes opt out form" in this section of our website and upon completion it will relay your decisions to us to record in your clinical record.