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|  At **Abington Park Surgery** we participate in medical research. We are dedicated to ensuring the confidentiality and security of your data which includes protecting your privacy and handling your personal information responsibly. This privacy statement outlines how we collect, use, disclose, and protect your personal information when you engage with our practice. We will only agree to participate in any project if there is an agreed clearly defined reason for the research that is likely to benefit healthcare and patients. Such proposals will normally have a consent process, ethics committee approval, and will be in line with the principles of Article 89(1) of GDPR. Research organisations do not usually approach patients directly but will ask us to make contact with suitable patients to seek their consent. Occasionally research can be authorised under law without the need to obtain consent. This is known as the section 251 arrangement1. We may also use your medical records to carry out research within the practice. We share information with the medical research organisations with your explicit consent or when the law allows. You have the right to object to your identifiable information being used or shared for medical research purposes. Please speak to the practice if you wish to object. **1. Collection of Personal Information:** We collect personal information from you when you register as a patient, participate in research studies, or interact with our website. The types of personal information we may collect include: - Contact information (name, address, phone number, email address) - Demographic information (age, gender, ethnicity) - Medical history and health information - Research study participation details  |

**2. Purpose and Use of Personal Information:**

We collect and use your personal information for the following purposes:

- Providing healthcare services: Your personal information helps us deliver appropriate medical care and treatment.

- Conducting research studies: With your consent, we may use your information to conduct research that aims to improve healthcare outcomes and contribute to medical knowledge.

- Communicating with you: We may use your contact information to provide appointment reminders, test results, and important healthcare-related updates.

- Legal and regulatory compliance: We may process your information to comply with legal obligations, such as reporting adverse events or meeting regulatory requirements.

**3. Sharing of Personal Information:**

We may share your personal information in the following circumstances:

- Healthcare professionals and staff: We may share your information with authorized healthcare professionals and staff members involved in your care and research studies.

- Research collaborators: With your explicit consent, we may share your information with external research collaborators for the purpose of conducting studies in accordance with applicable ethical and legal standards.

- Service providers: We may engage third-party service providers to assist us in delivering healthcare services and managing research activities. These providers are bound by strict confidentiality obligations.

- Legal and regulatory authorities: We may disclose your information if required by law or when necessary to comply with legal processes, court orders, or government regulations.

**4. Data Retention:**

We retain your personal information for as long as necessary to fulfill the purposes described in this privacy statement, unless a longer retention period is required or permitted by law. Research data may be retained for a longer duration in accordance with ethical guidelines and regulatory requirements.

**5. Security Measures:**

We implement comprehensive security measures to protect your personal information from unauthorized access, disclosure, alteration, or destruction. These measures include physical, technical, and administrative safeguards designed to maintain the confidentiality and integrity of your data.

**6. Your Rights:**

As an individual, you have certain rights concerning your personal information. These rights include:

- The right to access and obtain a copy of your personal information held by us.

- The right to correct any inaccuracies in your information.

- The right to withdraw your consent for processing your information, where applicable.

- The right to request erasure of your personal information under certain circumstances.

- The right to restrict or object to the processing of your personal information in certain situations.

- The right to data portability, where applicable.

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| **7. Contact Us:** If you have any questions, concerns, or requests regarding your privacy or the handling of your personal information, please contact our Data Protection Officer using the contact details below.  |
| 1**) Data Controller** contact details  | Dr Catherine Massey – Abington Park Surgery  |
| **2) Data Protection Officer** contact details  | Information Governance Service, NHS Midlands & Lancashire CSU Tel. 01782 872648 mlcsu.ig@nhs.net  |
| 3) **Purpose** of the sharing  | Medical research.  |
| 4) **Lawful basis** for processing or sharing  | Identifiable data will be shared with researchers either with explicit consent or, where the law allows, without consent. The lawful justifications are; Article 6(1)(a) **“**the data subject has given consent to the processing of his or her personal data for one or more specific purposes” Article 6(1)(e) may apply “necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller” And in addition the Article 9 justification of:- Article 9(2)(a) – ‘the data subject has given explicit consent…’  |
| 5) **Recipient or categories of recipients** of the shared data  | The data will be shared with medical research organisations  |
| 6) **Rights to object**  | You do not have to consent to your data being used for research. You can change your mind and withdraw your consent at any time. Contact the Data Controller or the practice.  |
| 7) Right to access and correct  | You have the right to access any identifiable data that is being shared and have any inaccuracies corrected.  |
| 8) Retention period  | The data will be retained for the period as specified in the specific research protocol(s).  |
| 9) **Right to Complain**.  | You have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner’s Office, you can use this link https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/ or calling their helpline Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or 01625 545 745 (national rate). There are National Offices for Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales, (see ICO website)  |