



Easy
Read

NHS

Cheshire and Merseyside

How we use your health information for health research and healthcare



Health research is looking
into new ways to make
people healthy.

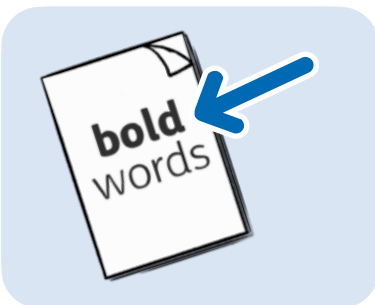
Easy Read



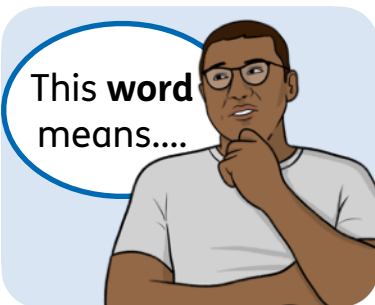
This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



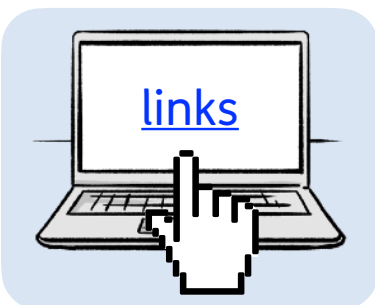
This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. You may still want help to read it.



Some words are in **bold** - this means the writing is thicker and darker.



These are words that some people will find hard. When you see a bold word, we will explain it in the next sentence.



Blue and underlined words show links to websites and email addresses. You can click on these links on a computer.

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About this booklet



This information is about the **Cheshire and Merseyside Secure Data Environment**.



The **Cheshire and Merseyside Secure Data Environment** keeps health information about people who live in Cheshire and Merseyside.



This health information is sometimes used for **health research**.

Health research is looking into new ways for people to be healthy.



This booklet is about how your health information is used.

The health information we keep is about:

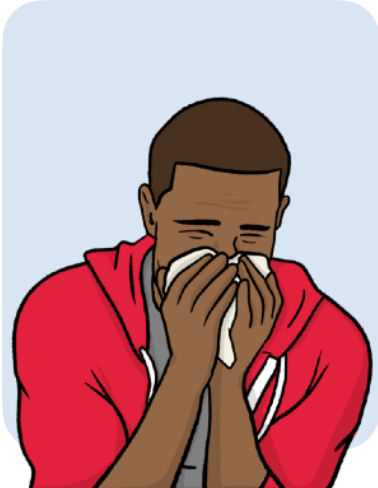


- Your **health conditions** if you have any.

Health conditions are health problems that you are usually told you have by a doctor.



- Any medicines you may be taking.

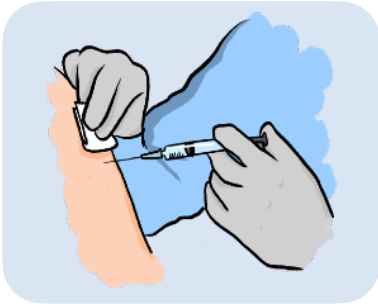


- Any **allergies** you might have.

Allergies are health problems some people have if they eat, touch or breathe near something most people would be ok with, like nuts or dogs. Some allergies can seriously affect people's health.



- The results of any health test you have taken like a blood test.



Health information is also kept about:

- **Vaccines** you have had.

Vaccines are injections or jabs that help to stop you from being ill with a certain illness.



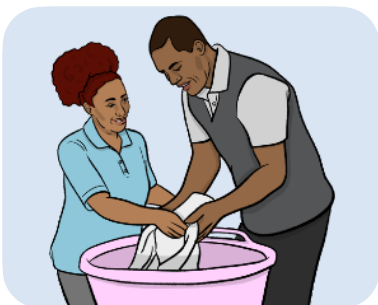
- **Care plans.**

A **care plan** is a plan which explains what care you want and how you want us to give it to you.



- **Treatments.**

Treatments are ways to help people to get better. For example, medicine or operations.



- **Social care.**

Social care is special support for people who need some help with everyday things, like washing and eating.

How we keep your health information for healthcare



Your health information is saved on computer systems.



Different health services have different computer systems.



We have found a way to safely share your health information with services like GPS, hospitals and ambulances.



This helps people who work in healthcare to give you the best support when you need it.

How we use health information in health research

Health research can help:



- Doctors find new medicines and treatments faster.



- Save people's lives.



- Make local services better, like Doctor's surgeries.

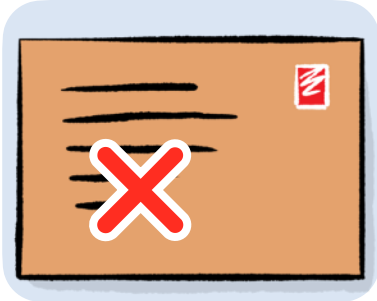


Your health information is kept safe in health research.

Nobody will be able to see your:



- Name.



- Home address.



- Date of birth.



We use strong **cyber security** when we do health research.

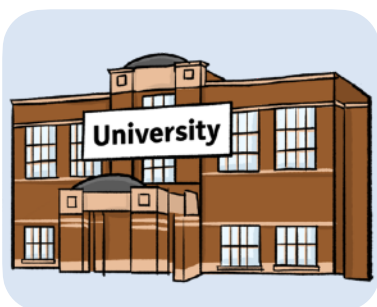
Cyber security on computers stops anybody looking at information they are not supposed to see.



We make sure that the only people who see your health information are doing health research.



Your health information will only be shared with health care services in Cheshire and Merseyside.



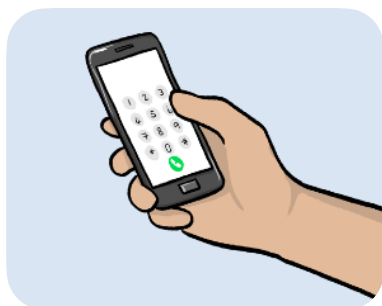
Other health information about you may be shared with places like Universities, but they will not be able to know that the health information is about you.

You can decide how your data is shared



If you want your health information to be used for health research, you do not need to contact us.

If you do not want your health information to be used for health research in Cheshire and Merseyside you can:



- Phone: 0151 351 8888



- Email: dataintoaction@cheshireandmerseyside.nh.uk



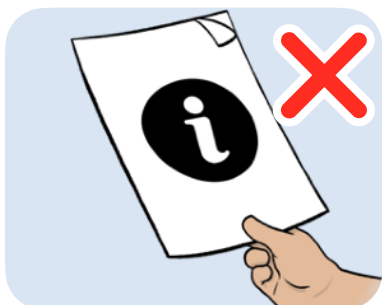
This means your health information will not be used in Cheshire and Merseyside, but it will still be used nationally.

If you want to stop your Doctor's Surgery from sharing your health information for health research:



You can register for a **type 1 opt-out form**.

A **type 1 opt-out form** is a form that can be downloaded and given to your GP.



If you do this, health information from your GP Practice will not be used for health research.



However, information about you from hospitals and ambulance services when they care for you could still be used for health research.



To register for a type 1 opt-out form, please visit this website for more information:

www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/about-the-nhs/opt-out-of-sharing-your-health-records



If you do not want your health information to be used in health research and planning, you can fill in a form from the national data opt-out service.



To see this form, please visit this website:

www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters



If you change your mind, please fill in this form again and say you would like your health information to be used.



You can raise a **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) - Right to Object** if you do not want your health information to be used for research or shared by services looking after you.



You can do this at your doctor's surgery.



If you stop sharing your health information, this would stop healthcare professionals from seeing your details.



For example, a doctor at a hospital, wouldn't be able to see any health information written about you by a Doctor at a Doctor's surgery.



This could cause delays in you getting medicines or treatment if you have a health care need.



Your health information would still be recorded into an electronic system where you are receiving healthcare.



This health information will not then be able to be looked at by any other health care service.



If you ask for your health information not to be shared, your GP Doctor may say no.



They will say no if they do not think this is a good idea for your health.

Find out more



You can look at our website here:

www.datainaction.cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk/secure-data-environment

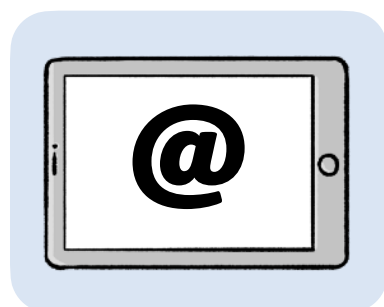


You can also contact us by:

- Post:
The Information Governance Team,
NHS Cheshire and Merseyside,
No 1 Lakeside,
920 Centre Park,
Warrington,
WA1 1QY



- Phone:
0151 351 8888



- Email:
dataintoaction@cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk