

# Consent guide for patients

Care Integrated Digital Record (CIDR) is an electronic record linking patient information from participating health and social care organisations across North Central London. Care professionals can access these records through an online portal to help them provide the best care.

CIDR includes information about you recorded by acute hospitals, mental health, community health, social care and GP practices.

You must give your consent for shared information about you to be viewed. This leaflet answers some common questions about consent.



## What consent do you need to give to create your record?

If you are registered with a GP practice within the participating areas of North Central London, you must give your consent before your CIDR record can be created. You will be asked if you would like a CIDR record when you register with a participating GP practice, at which point you may accept or decline. A record will not be created without your permission.

## What consent must you give to allow professionals to view your record?

You must give your consent if you wish to share your information held in your CIDR record between other organisations or to allow a health or social care professional to see it.

## How do you give consent to view your record?

If you have not already given consent for an organisation to view your information held on CIDR your health or care professional will ask you for consent. They will explain to you:

- The sources of the information in CIDR
- The types of information shared from each source
- Who will be able to view the record after you have consented
- That you are able to change your mind at any time.

## How can you “opt out”?

You can choose to “opt out” completely from CIDR or can choose not to share information about you held by a particular health or care organisation. You can opt out or in at any time.

- To opt out completely you should contact your GP practice, which will record your choice and update your record.
- To opt out of sharing information held by a particular organisation you should contact that organisation directly and speak with your health professional or a member of staff from the Information Governance team.

## What are the implications for your care if you decide to “opt out”?

“Opting out” means that you will not receive the improvements in care that sharing information through CIDR makes possible. The service you receive from your GP and health and care professionals will not change.

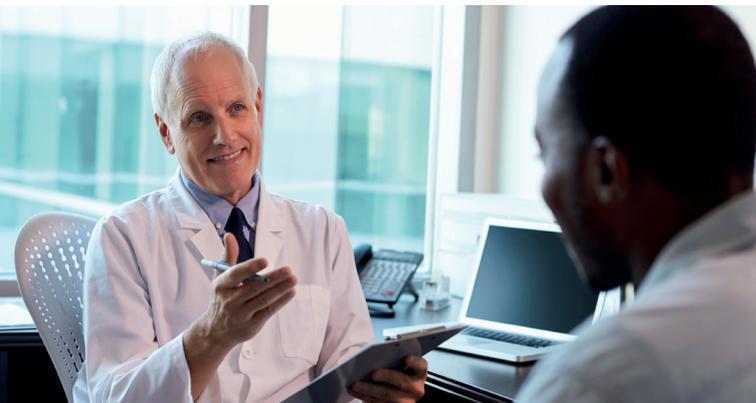
You can opt back in at any time if you change your mind. However, if you opt out but then opt back in later some important information about your care may not be included.

## What if I need urgent care and I'm too ill to give consent?

In exceptional cases (for instance if you are unconscious and can't give consent) a health or care professional may "break the seal" and access the information on CIDR for a limited time if it is in your best interest. However your consent will be sought at the earliest opportunity. If you have "opted out" from having a CIDR record your information cannot be shared.

## What information is available?

Details in the record include: Dates and outcomes of hospital visits, appointments, referrals, prescribed medications, allergies, some investigations (for example blood tests), diagnoses, support plans, planned review date and type of care package, care plans, risk/warnings, and details of the healthcare professionals looking after you. The portal does not contain sensitive information such as sexual health, termination of pregnancy, HIV status or fertility treatment.



## Further information

To find out more visit [cidrportal.nhs.uk](http://cidrportal.nhs.uk)

email [cidr@nhs.net](mailto:cidr@nhs.net)

or speak with the CIDR team on **0203 688 1701**.

### In partnership with:

Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust, Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust, Royal Free London NHS Trust, Camden and Islington NHS Foundation Trust, University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Coordinate My Care, London Borough of Camden.

## Who can view the information?

Any authorised health and social care professionals are permitted to use the system. Your consent is required before they can view information about you in CIDR.

NHS and Local Authority social care organisations must authorise a member of staff to use CIDR. They will be authorised to use only the functions they require (for instance doctors will be able to view more information than admin staff).

Staff with permission to access the CIDR records can **ONLY** view your records once you have given their organisation "explicit consent" to do so.

You must give "explicit consent" to allow records to be viewed by that organisation unless it is an emergency and there are exceptional circumstances (for instance if you are unconscious and need urgent treatment) and then your records may be accessed for a limited time.

The care professionals who might have permission to access information include:

- Doctors
- Pharmacists
- Nurses
- Midwives
- Clinical social workers
- Radiographers
- Speech and language therapists
- Occupational therapists
- Physiotherapists
- Podiatrists
- Orthoptists
- Dietitians
- Health care assistants
- Paramedics
- Clinical administrators
- Medical Secretaries

We continuously monitor who is viewing records and how they are using them. This ensures they are being accessed appropriately in line with the NHS Care Records Guarantee, which sets out how patients' information can be used.

## Is data shared or "sold on"?

No. The information in CIDR is held purely to help health and social care professionals give you the best care. CIDR is not part of any national programme.