**What is national data opt-out?**

The national data opt-out is a service that allows patients to opt out of their patient information being used for research and planning.

**How do health and care services use your information?**

Whenever you use a health or care service, important information about you is collected in a patient record for that service. Collecting this information helps to ensure you get the best possible care and treatment.

The information collected about you when you use these services can also be used and provided to other organisations for purposes beyond your individual care, for instance to help with:

* improving the quality and standards of care provided
* research into the development of new treatments
* preventing illness and diseases
* monitoring safety
* planning services

This may only take place when there is a clear legal basis to use this information. All these uses help to provide better health and care for you, your family and future generations. Confidential patient information about your health and care is **only used** like this where allowed by law.

Most of the time, anonymised data is used for research and planning so that you cannot be identified in which case your confidential patient information isn’t needed.

**You have a choice** about whether you want your confidential patient information to be used in this way. If you are happy with this use of information you do not need to do anything. If you do choose to opt out your confidential patient information will still be used to support your individual care.

To find out more or to register your choice to opt out, please visit [www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters](http://www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters). On this web page you will:

* See what is meant by confidential patient information
* Find examples of when confidential patient information is used for individual care and examples of when it is used for purposes beyond individual care
* Find out more about the benefits of sharing data
* Understand more about who uses the data
* Find out how your data is protected
* Be able to access the system to view, set or change your opt-out setting
* Find the contact telephone number if you want to know any more or to set/change your opt-out by phone
* See the situations where the opt-out will not apply

You can also find out more about how patient information is used at:

[https://www.hra.nhs.uk/information-about-patients/](https://www.hra.nhs.uk/information-about-patients/%20) (which covers health and care research); and

<https://understandingpatientdata.org.uk/what-you-need-know> (which covers how and why patient information is used, the safeguards and how decisions are made)

**You can change your mind about your choice at any time.**

Data being used or shared for purposes beyond individual care does **not** include your data being shared with insurance companies or used for marketing purposes and data would only be used in this way with your specific agreement.

All organisations providing health and care services have until 31 March 2021 to put systems and processes in place so they can be compliant with the national data opt-out and apply your choice to any confidential patient information they use or share for purposes beyond your individual care.

**Ace Centre is compliant with the national data opt-out policy.** The data that we process is used only for individuals’ care and treatment.  We do share data with 3rd parties, but only for the purpose of providing direct individual care to our clients, and only the minimum data is shared.  Where client data is used to monitor, analyse and improve our service outcomes, this data is anonymised.  Where research is undertaken, clients must give their prior, explicit consent to participation in that specific research project before their data can be used.