

West Lancashire Patient privacy notice

This privacy notice explains what information we collect about you, how we store this information, how we share this information and how we keep it safe and confidential. We want you to be confident that your information is kept safe, secure and for you to understand how and why we use it to support your care.

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Patient privacy notice

We want you to be confident that your information is kept safe and secure and understand how and why we use it to support your care. This privacy policy explains:

- Who we are
- Why we collect information about you
- How your information will be used
- How we keep it safe and confidential

1. Covid-19 – Privacy Notice

This notice describes how we may use your information to protect you and others during the Covid-19 outbreak. It supplements our main Privacy Notice.

The health and social care system is facing significant pressures due to the Covid-19 outbreak. Health and care information is essential to deliver care to individuals, to support health and social care services and to protect public health.

Information will also be vital in researching, monitoring, tracking and managing the outbreak. In the current emergency it has become even more important to share health and care information across relevant organisations.

Existing law which allows confidential patient information to be used and shared appropriately and lawfully in a public health emergency is being used during this outbreak.

National data opt-outs

During this period of emergency, opt-outs will not generally apply to the data used to support the Covid-19 outbreak, due to the public interest in sharing information. This includes national data opt-outs.

However in relation to the Summary Care Record, existing choices will be respected. Where data is used and shared under these laws your right to have personal data erased will also not apply.

It may also take us longer to respond to Subject Access requests, Freedom of Information requests and new opt-out requests whilst we focus our efforts on responding to the outbreak.

Please see the National data opt out section for more information.

Sharing your data

In order to look after your health and care needs we may share your confidential patient information including health and care records with clinical and non-clinical staff in other health and care providers, for example GP practices, hospitals and NHS 111. We may also use the details we have to send public health messages to you or your nominated person/carer, either by phone, text or email.

During this period of emergency we may offer you a consultation via telephone or video- conferencing. By accepting the invitation and entering the consultation you are consenting to this. Your personal/confidential patient information will be safeguarded in the same way it would with any other consultation.

We will also be required to share personal/confidential patient information with other health and care organisations and other bodies engaged in disease surveillance for the purposes of protecting public health, providing healthcare services to the public and monitoring and managing the outbreak.

Covid-19 data

NHS England and Improvement and NHSX have developed a single, secure store to gather data from across the health and care system to inform the Covid-19 response. This includes data already collected by NHS England, NHS Improvement, Public Health England and NHS Digital.

All the data held in the platform is subject to strict controls that meet the requirements of data protection legislation.

In such circumstances where you tell us you're experiencing Covid-19 symptoms we may need to collect specific health data about you. Where we need to do so, we will not collect more information than we require and we will ensure that any information collected is treated with the appropriate safeguards.

Shielding

The Department of Health and Social Care has directed NHS Digital to collect this data from all relevant health and care organisations for the purposes of direct care in response to the spread of the Covid-19 virus (also known as Coronavirus).

The objective of the collection is, on an ongoing basis, to identify who may be clinically extremely vulnerable if they contract Covid-19.

The data collected will be analysed and linked with other data NHS digital holds to identify a list of clinically extremely vulnerable patients who will be advised to take shielding measures to protect themselves.

Patient level data will include name, NHS number, GP Practice will be collected for identified patients.

More information in relation to the specific Covid-19 privacy notice can be found [here](#)

2. Definitions

The following legislation will both be referred as, UK Data Protection Laws:

- UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- **DPA 18**, Data Protection Act 2018

Personal data: Any information relating to an identifiable individual such as your name, NHS number, contact details. It can also be location data or an online identifier.

Special categories of personal data are defined as: Racial or ethnic origin, politics, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, genetics, biometrics (where used for identification) information concerning your health, sex life or sexual orientation.

3. Who are we?

West Lancashire Adult Community services are provided by Virgin Care Services Limited. We are the data controller for any personal information we hold about you.

For more information please visit: <http://westlancscommunityhealth.nhs.uk/>

Virgin Care Services Ltd is a limited company registered in England and Wales, number 5466033. Registered office: Virgin Care Ltd, The Heath Business Park, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 4XJ.

4. Who can you contact regarding your personal information we hold?

- **Head of Operations Community Services**

Debbie Curran

Bickerstaffe House
Wigan Road,
Ormskirk,
Lancashire
L39 2AZ

- **Data Protection Officer**

Sarah Murray
Virgin Care
The Heath Business Park
Runcorn
Cheshire
WA7 4XJ
Tel: 01925 302 514

Email: information.governance@virginicare.co.uk

If you are not happy about the way your information is handled, you have the right to lodge a complaint with a supervisory authority. In the UK, this is the Information Commissioners Office (ICO).

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Helpline: 0303 123 1113 (local rate)
Email: casework@ico.org.uk
Website: www.ico.org.uk

<https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>

[How to make a complaint to the ICO](#)

5. What are your rights

If we need to use your personal information for any reasons beyond those stated above, we will discuss this with you and ask for your **explicit** consent. Under the UK Data Protection Laws, you have the following rights. If you have any queries around your rights please contact the Data Protection Officer details in section 3, or use a link to our privacy portal in section 5.

The right to be informed	As a data controller, we are obliged to provide understandable and transparent information about the way we process your data (this is provided by our privacy policy).
The right of access	You are entitled to request a copy of the personal data we hold about you.
The right to rectification	You are entitled to request changes to information if it is inaccurate or incomplete
The right to erasure	Where no overriding legal basis or legitimate reason continues to exist for processing personal data, you may request that we delete the personal data.
The right to restrict processing	Under certain circumstances, you may ask us to stop processing your personal data. We will still hold the data, but will not process it any further.
The right to data portability	Subject to certain conditions, you may request a copy of your personal data to be transferred to another organisation.
The right to object to processing	<p>You have the right to object to our processing of your data where</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processing is based on legitimate interest; • Processing involves automated decision-making and profiling. • Processing would be for a purpose beyond your care and treatment, e.g. direct marketing and scientific or historic research; you can opt-out to the sharing of this information under the National Data Opt-Out. Further information can be found on the following website: https://digital.nhs.uk/national-data-opt-out/ • Friends and Family Test

Please note that the above rights may not apply in all circumstances.

Keep us updated of any changes

Please let us know if you change your address or contact details etc. so that we can keep your information accurate and up to date.

6. How to request a copy of your record

You can request a copy of your records via our Data Subject Access Requests (DSAR) portal.

[Data Subject Rights Portal](#)

Our portal supports the management of requests with regards to records and/or alterations/concerns. Your request will be directed to our Privacy Team which will ensure that the correct service receives your request promptly.

To progress the request you will need proof of identity as follows:

- Driving licence or Passport or Work ID badge or Bus Pass or a witness to your signature by someone who is over 18 and is not a relative, (preferably by your doctor/solicitor on their headed business paper) as proof of identity
- Bank statement or Pay slip or Utility bill or a Letter on headed paper from a local authority or similar as proof of residence.

If you are a Representative acting on a data subject's behalf you will need proof of your identity as well as proof that the data subject is freely giving consent to the request, or you have the appropriate legal authority.

If you would like more information about your records, please ask at reception, speak to the person proving your care or contact our Data Protection Officer: Sarah Murray, Head of Information Governance, Virgin Care. Email: information.governance@virginicare.co.uk

7. The information we collect and use

We will collect basic 'personal data' about you such as your name, d.o.b, address and contact details. We may also ask you for more sensitive data, called 'special category data' such as your ethnicity and information about your health and outcomes of needs assessments. This information is held in written form and/or in digital form.

Health care professionals who provide you with care are required by law to maintain records about your health and any treatment or care you have received within any NHS organisation (eg information from Hospitals, GP surgeries etc). These records help to provide you with the best possible healthcare and help us to protect your safety.

In carrying out this role we will collect information about you which helps us respond to your queries or secure specialist services. We may collect the information from you or other trusted parties involved in your care.

We will collect basic '**personal data**' about you once you register with us such as:

This may include:

- Details about you, such as your address, NHS number, next of kin and/or carer information

In addition to the above we may also hold more sensitive personal data, called 'special category data' which could include:

- Any contact the service has had with you, such as appointments, clinic visits, emergency appointments, etc.
- Notes and reports about your health and safeguarding
- Details about your treatment and care
- Results of investigations, such as laboratory tests, x-rays, etc.
- Relevant information from other health professionals, relatives or those who care for you

8. How we use your information

Your records are used to:

- Provide information to make health decisions made by care professional with and for you
- Implementation of patient outcome measure framework to support your health and care
- Make sure your care is safe and effective
- Support working with others providing your care

We may also use, or share, your information for the following purposes:

- Looking after the health of the general public
- Making sure that our services can meet patient needs in the future
- Preparing statistics on NHS performance and activity
- Investigating concerns, complaints or legal claims
- Helping colleagues review the care they provide to make sure it is of the highest standards
- Training and educating staff
- For research purposes (we will always ask your consent for this)

▪ Invoice Validation

Invoice validation enables us to identify which CCG is responsible for paying for your treatment. Section 251 of the NHS Act 2006 provides a statutory legal basis to process data for invoice validation purposes and uses your NHS number to validate payment. We can also use your NHS number to check whether your care has been funded through specialist commissioning, which NHS England will pay for. The process makes sure that the organisations providing your care are paid correctly. [NHS Digital - how we use your information for invoice validation](#)

▪ SMS Text Reminder Service

Some services provide a text messaging reminder service which automatically sends SMS messages to remind you of your appointments with us. We will not send any information which is not related to your direct care and you have the option to opt out of this service if you wish by contacting the team you are in contact with.

▪ The Friends and Family Test (FFT)

NHS organisations including Virgin Care Services Ltd are required to use the Friends & Family Test (FFT) to capture feedback and submit response data to NHS England each month. Patients can access the data which will then help them make informed choices about their future care.

We collect feedback from a number of channels, including SMS text messaging, online – via our Virgin Care website and paper questionnaires/feedback forms. All personal information collected is processed and stored in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 / GDPR 2016.

- **Macmillan Information and Support Service**

The Macmillan Information Support Service which is hosted by Virgin Care and funded by NHS West Lancashire CCG, provides support and information in relation to client's and their families who are affected by Cancer.

For more information please click [here](#)

Update for Covid-19

During the Covid-19 Pandemic the Macmillan Information Support Service have also adapted the Service in West Lancashire to ensure patients and their families could still feel connected to and reassured by them during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Solutions included offering virtual sessions to promote good health and exercise, helping clients access wider support such as applying for grants or finding someone to deliver the weekly shop, and gifting sunflowers to patients to let them know that we were thinking of them.

For more information please click [here](#)

- **Short Intensive Support Service**

Our multi-disciplinary team, led by advanced nurse practitioners, provides care to patients at home up to six times a day, for up to 72 hours, helping to stabilise conditions and prevent unnecessary hospital admissions.

For more information please click [here](#)

9. Services we provide

- Blood Collection
- Community Cardiac Team
- Community Emergency Response
- Community Matrons
- Community Neurological Rehabilitation
- Continence
- Diabetes Nursing
- Tissue Viability
- District Nursing
- Short Intensive Support Service
- Out of Hours GP
- Macmillan Information Support Service
- Community Rehabilitation
- Falls Prevention
- Nutrition and Dietetics
- Podiatry
- Single Point of Access
- Skelmersdale Walk-in Centre
- Speech and Language Therapy
- West Lancashire Urgent Care Centre (Ormskirk Walk-in Centre)
- Short Intensive Support Service

10. Who we share your information with

We may also share your information for the provision of your care or for another legal obligation with the following organisations and partners:

- NHS Trusts/Foundation
- GP's

- Other Community Services providers or services that support us in providing community services such as tissue viability services or providers of enablement care
- Urgent care organisations, minor injury units or out of hours services
- Community and palliative care hospitals
- Care Homes
- Mental Health Trusts
- Dentists, opticians, pharmacists
- Private Sector Providers
- Voluntary Sector Providers
- Ambulance Trusts
- Clinical Commissioning Groups
- Commissioning Support Units
- NHS England (NHSE) and NHS Digital (NHSD)
- Local Authorities
- Education Services (e.g. West Lancs College, Edge Hill University)
- Voluntary Sector Providers such as Age UK
- Police and Judicial Services
- Virgin Care Support teams
- Insignia Health – will only receive a unique identifier with your outcome measure framework details. This will be anonymised within their Flourish system.
- Macmillan Information Support Service
- Abbot Nutrition
- Nutricia
- Fresenius
- Vitaflo
- Essity
- Queens Court Hospice
- Yewdale Counselling Services
- Consultant Connect
- Covid-19 initiative - iHope Project
- Covid-19 initiative - Ormskirk Foodbank E-Referral
- West Lancs – Working Together
- Your Covid Recovery
- Elemental
- Docman
- Docobo
- My COPD
- UK Mail

[UK Mail](#) provide a postal service utilised by the Lincolnshire Dermatology service for sending letters and/or correspondence to service users/patients. [UK Mail Privacy Policy](#) sets out how your personal information is processed in keeping with Data Protection regulations.

When we share your information:

We may share information about you for the following purposes;

- To support your health and care arrangements including referrals, pathology and other results
- Recommendations for special arrangements at home such as equipment you may need to support you to maintain your independence at home
- To manage incidents that you have been involved in
- To deal with complaints and investigations
- Requests for information from official authorities or your representatives
- Your records if the service is transferring to us under contract or if you are moving out of area
- The prevention and detection of crime

- Funding requests or payments
- Integrated care initiatives
- Legal advice or proceedings
- Responding to legal requests and court orders
- Public health notifications
- To gather feedback through the friends and family test

Our partners and other recipients:

- We work in partnership with commissioners, other health and care providers such as primary care services, local authorities, NHS trusts, pathology providers etc.
- Local Safeguarding Boards
- Regulators
- We may use trusted providers to host our IT, archiving, email and texting services and surveys
- We may use corporate teams within the Virgin Care Group who provide 'back office' support on behalf of services within our group such as communications and marketing, information governance, clinical governance and IMT.

11. What is our legal basis for processing your information?

In order for West Lancashire to legally process your information a 'lawful basis' needs to be identified. Data protection law recognises the difference between personal data and that of a more sensitive nature known as special categories of data; such as racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious beliefs, trade union activities and physical or mental health.

Our Legal basis for processing your personal information falls under one of the following legal bases:

- Providing and managing health and social care services to our patients service users and clients
- Performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority
- Necessary for a legal obligation such as responding to a request from a coroner
- Necessary for reasons in the area of public health such as in the event of an outbreak of a disease

Our Legal basis for processing special categories "sensitive" personal information falls under one of the following legal bases:

- We need to use the data in order to provide medical diagnosis, health and social care treatment services to you
- Social protection law for safeguarding purposes
- Where it is necessary to protect your vital interests

12. How long do we keep your information

We will keep your healthcare records in accordance with the national guidance: Records Management Code of Practice for Health and Social Care 2020, after which records and confidential information are securely destroyed in line with this code of practice. Please click on the link for the retention periods of the various medical records we hold. [Records retention schedules](#)

13. CCTV

We have installed CCTV systems in our premises for the purposes of public and staff safety and crime and prevention and detection. In all locations, signs are displayed notifying you that CCTV is in operation and providing details of who to contact for further information.

Images captured by CCTV will be deleted 30 days after the CCTV footage was taken. However, on occasions there may need to be a need to keep images for longer, for example where a crime is being investigated.

You have the right to see CCTV images of yourself and be provided with a copy of the images. We will only disclose images to authorised bodies such as the police, who intend to use it for the purposes stated above. You will find our contact details at the beginning of this privacy notice. If you wish to request a copy of the CCTV recording.

14. How we keep your information safe

We take the security of your personal data very seriously. We have operational policies and procedures in place to protect your information whether it is in hard copy or electronic format. We protect your information in the following ways:

Training:

Staff are trained to understand their duty of confidentiality and their responsibilities regarding the security of patient data; this includes their mandatory annual training in data security and confidentiality to demonstrate they understand and are complying with policies on confidentiality.

Access Controls:

Any member of staff who has access to personal confidential data will have a username and unique password. This will reduce the risk of unauthorised access to your personal data and all access is auditable.

Technical measures:

We complete due diligence and impose contractual obligations on our trusted providers and persons working under our instruction.

We have a duty to:

- Maintain full and accurate records of the care we provide to you.
- Keep records about you confidential and secure.
- Provide information in a format that is accessible to you.

Everyone working for our organisation is subject to the Common Law Duty of Confidence. Information provided in confidence will only be used for the purposes advised with consent given by the patient, unless there are other circumstances covered by the law.

The NHS Digital Code of Practice on Confidential Information applies to all NHS staff and they are required to protect your information, inform you of how your information will be used, and allow you to decide if and how your information can be shared. All our staff are expected to make sure information is kept confidential and receive regular training on how to do this.

The health records we use will be electronic, on paper or a mixture of both, and we use a combination of working practices and technology to ensure that your information is kept confidential and secure. Your records are backed up securely in line with NHS standard procedures. We ensure that the information we hold is kept in secure locations, is protected by appropriate security and access is restricted to authorised personnel.

We also make sure external data processors that support us are legally and contractually bound to operate and prove security arrangements are in place where data that could or does identify a person are processed.

We are committed to protecting your privacy and will only use information collected lawfully in accordance with:

- Data Protection Act 2018
- General Data Protection Regulation
- Human Rights Act
- Common Law Duty of Confidentiality
- NHS Codes of Confidentiality and Information Security
- Health and Social Care Act 2015
- And all applicable legislation

We maintain our duty of confidentiality to you at all times. We will only ever use or pass on information about you if we reasonably believe that others involved in your care have a genuine need for it.

We will not disclose your information to any third party without an appropriate legal basis and there are exceptional circumstances (such as a risk of serious harm to yourself or others) or where the law requires information to be passed on.

15. How the NHS and care services use your information

West Lancashire Adult Community Services is one of many organisations working in the health and care system to improve care for patients and the public.

Whenever you use a health or care service, such as attending Accident & Emergency or using Community Care services, 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.

16. Social Media and our Website

When you contact us through social media such as Facebook and Twitter, we hold your information and reason for contact in our social media management portal to enable us to easily access and manage our engagement with you. This may result in us sharing your information with other parties within the Virgin Care Group e.g. individuals involved in your care, managing your complaint etc.

When you visit our websites we collect standard internet log information and details of visitor behaviours. This is statistical data only which we collect in order to find out the numbers of visitors to the site and the pages visited. The information is collected in such a way that does not identify individuals and we do not make any attempts to identify visitors this way.

Where we do collect personal information on our website, this will be made obvious to you through the relevant pages. The following link will take you to our [Website Privacy Policy](#)

17. Contract end provisions

In the event of the contract with the service and Virgin Care services Ltd coming to an end, all relevant documentation and records will be transferred to the new provider (s).

The transfer of records will be conducted in accordance with the current UK Data Protection Law.

18. Changes to our privacy notice

We will update this privacy notice from time to time to reflect any changes to our ways of working. Please contact our Data Protection Officer if you would like more information.

Date privacy notice last updated: August 2021