

GRAFTON ROAD SURGERY

What is GDPR?

GDPR stands for General Data Protection Regulations and is a new piece of legislation that will supersede the Data Protection Act. It will not only apply to the UK and EU; it covers anywhere in the world in which data about EU citizens is processed.

The GDPR is similar to the Data Protection Act (DPA) 1998 (which the practice already complies with), but strengthens many of the DPA's principles. The main changes are:

- Practices must comply with subject access requests
- Where we need your consent to process data, this consent must be freely given, specific, informed and unambiguous
- There are new, special protections for patient data
- The Information Commissioner's Office must be notified within 72 hours of a data breach
- Higher fines for data breaches – up to 20 million euros

What is 'patient data'?

Patient data is information that relates to a single person, such as his/her diagnosis, name, age, earlier medical history etc.

What is consent?

Consent is permission from a patient – an individual's consent is defined as *"any freely given specific and informed indication of his wishes by which the data subject signifies his agreement to personal data relating to him being processed."*

The changes in GDPR mean that we must get explicit permission from patients when using their data. This is to protect your right to privacy, and we may ask you to provide consent to do certain things, like contact you or record certain information about you for your clinical records.

Individuals also have the right to withdraw their consent at any time.

Contact us

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How we use your medical records

Important information for patients

- **This practice handles medical records in-line with laws on data protection and confidentiality.**
- **We share medical records with those who are involved in providing you with care and treatment.**
- **In some circumstances we will also share medical records for medical research, for example to find out more about why people get ill.**
- **We share information when the law requires us to do so, for example, to prevent infectious diseases from spreading or to check the care being provided to you is safe.**
- **You have the right to be given a copy of your medical record.**
- **You have the right to object to your medical records being shared with those who provide you with care.**
- **You have the right to object to your information being used for medical research and to plan health services.**
- **For more information ask at reception for a leaflet.**