

Privacy Notice

This Privacy Notice only applies to the website of The Baldock Surgery. If you use a link to any other websites from the surgery's website, then you will need to read their respective privacy notice. We take no responsibility (legal or otherwise) for the content of other websites.

We understand how important it is to keep your personal information safe and secure and we take this responsibility very seriously. We have taken steps to make sure your personal information is looked after in the best possible way, and we review this regularly.

Please read this Privacy Notice carefully, as it contains important information about how we use the personal and healthcare information we collect on your behalf.

1. Why we are providing this Privacy Notice

We are required to provide you with this Privacy Notice by law. It explains how we use the personal and healthcare information we collect, store and hold about you. If you are unclear about how we process or use your personal and healthcare information, or you have any questions about this Privacy Notice or any other issue regarding your personal and healthcare information, then please contact the practice Data Controller.

The law says we must inform you:

- a) why we collect personal and healthcare information about you
- b) how we use any personal and/or healthcare information we hold on you
- c) what we do with that personal and/or healthcare information
- d) who we share it with or pass it on to and why, and
- e) how long we can keep that information for.

1. The Data Protection Officer

The contact details of the named responsible Data Controller at the practice are:

- Dr Somani- GP Partner and P Kandola Business Manager

You can contact either of the above if:

1. You have any questions about your information being held
2. You require access to your information or if you wish to make a change to your information

3. You have any other query in relation to this Privacy Notice and your rights as a patient.

The Data Protection Officer (DPO) function for this practice is provided by BJM IG Privacy and Data Privacy Simplified, hosted by Herts and West Essex ICS. If you wish to contact the DPO or have a concern about anything to do with the personal and healthcare information we hold about you (that was not resolved by your enquiry with the practice), please contact the Data Protection Officer at hweicbenh.dpo-gpcontractedservice@nhs.net.

*In this initial email, please only indicate you wish to raise a concern about how your personal information is being processed. **Please do not provide any details at this stage.** On receipt of this email you will be contacted and requested to provide adequate, relevant and limited information necessary in relation to the purposes for which your concern is being processed.

If you are making a Subject Access Request (SAR) or require part of your medical record please email: baldocksurgery.reception@nhs.net.

2. About Us

We, at Baldock Surgery ('**the Surgery**') situated at High St Baldock, Herts SG7 6BP, are a **Data Controller** of your information. This means we are responsible for collecting, storing, and handling your personal and healthcare information when you register with us as a patient.

There may be times where we also process your information. That means we use it for a particular purpose and, therefore, on those occasions we may also be **Data Processors**. The purposes for which we use your information are set out in this Privacy Notice.

Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Board (ICB) is a **Data Processor** of your information as this organisation has built this website on behalf of the surgery.

3. Information we collect from you

The information we collect from you will include:

- a) Your contact details (such as your name, address, telephone number, mobile phone number and email address, including place of work and work contact details)
- b) Details and contact numbers of your next of kin, carers, legal representatives
- c) Your age, gender and ethnicity
- d) Details in relation to your medical history

- e) The reason for your contact with the surgery
- f) Medical notes and details of diagnosis and consultations with our GPs and other health professionals within the surgery involved in your direct healthcare
- g) Any contact the surgery has had with you such as appointments, clinic visits, emergency appointments.

4. Information about you from others

We also collect personal information about you when it is sent to us from the following:

- a) a hospital, a consultant or any other medical or healthcare professional, or any other person involved with your general healthcare.

5. Your summary care record

Your summary care record is an electronic record of your healthcare history (and other relevant personal information) held on a national healthcare records database provided and facilitated by NHS England.

This record may be shared with other healthcare professionals and additions to this record may also be made by relevant healthcare professionals and organisations involved in your direct healthcare.

You may have the right to demand that this record is not shared with anyone who is not involved in the provision of your direct healthcare. If you wish to enquire further as to your rights in respect of not sharing information on this record then please contact the practice Data Controller.

To find out more about the wider use of confidential personal information and to register your choice to opt out if you do not want your data to be used in this way, please visit www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters

Please note that if you do choose to opt out, you can still consent to your data being used for specific purposes. However, if you are happy with this use of information you do not need to do anything. You may however change your choice at any time.

6. Who we may provide your personal information to, and why

Whenever you use a health or care service, such as attending Accident & Emergency or using community healthcare services, important information about you is collected to help ensure you get the best possible care and treatment. This information may be passed to other approved organisations where there is a legal basis, to help with planning services, improving care, research into developing new treatments and preventing illness. All of this helps in providing better care to you and your family and future generations. However, as explained in this Privacy Notice, confidential

information about your health and care is only used in this way where allowed by law and would never be used for any other purpose without your clear and explicit consent.

We may pass your personal information on to the following people or organisations, because these organisations may require your information to assist them in the provision of your direct healthcare needs. It, therefore, may be important for them to be able to access your information in order to ensure they may properly deliver their services to you:

- a) Hospital professionals (such as doctors, consultants, nurses, etc)
- b) Other GPs/Doctors
- c) Pharmacists
- d) Nurses and other healthcare professionals
- e) Dentists
- f) Any other person that is involved in providing services related to your general healthcare, including mental health professionals.

7. Other people who we provide your information to:

- a) Commissioners, for example the Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Board (ICB)
- b) Local authorities
- c) Community health services
- d) NHS 111 and linked urgent care services
- e) Police, solicitors, insurance companies, for the purposes of complying with the law
- f) Anyone you have given your consent to, to view or receive your record, or part of your record. **Please note, if you give another person or organisation consent to access your record we will need to contact you to verify your consent before we release that record. It is important that you are clear and understand how much and what aspects of, your record you give consent to be disclosed.**
- g) **Extended Access** – extended access services means GP services provided outside of our normal working hours. In order to provide you with this service, we have formal arrangements in place with the Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Board (ICB) and with other practices whereby certain key “**hub**” practices offer this service on our behalf for you as a patient to access

outside of our opening hours. This means, those key “**hub**” practices will have to have access to your medical record to be able to offer you the service. Please note to ensure that those practices comply with the law and to protect the use of your information, we have very robust data sharing agreements and other clear arrangements in place to ensure your data is always protected and used for those purposes only.

The key **Hub** practices are as follows:

Sollorshott Surgery, Letchworth, Herts.

- h) **Data Extraction by the Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Board (ICB)** – the ICB at times extracts medical information about you, but the information we pass to them via our computer systems **cannot identify you to them**. This information only refers to you by way of a code that only your practice can identify (it is pseudo-anonymised). This therefore protects you from anyone who may have access to this information at the ICB from **ever** identifying you as a result of seeing the medical information and we will **never** give them the information that would enable them to do this.

There are good reasons why the ICB may require this pseudo-anonymised information, these are as follows:

- To assist in analysing current health services and proposals for developing future services.
- To develop risk stratification models to help GPs to identify and support patients with long term conditions and to help to prevent unplanned hospital admissions or reduce the risk of certain diseases developing such as diabetes
- Using risk stratification to help the ICB to understand the health needs of the local population in order to plan and commission the right services.

Further details on how Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Board (ICB) uses information to support its roles and responsibilities can be found on the ICB website: <https://hertsandwestessex.icb.nhs.uk/website/privacy-notice-1>

- i) **National Diabetes Audit** – The National Diabetes Audit (NDA) is major national clinical audit which measures the effectiveness of diabetes healthcare against NICE clinical guidelines and NICE quality standards. The NDA collects and analyses data for use by a range of stakeholders to drive changes and improvements in the quality of services and outcomes for people with diabetes.

For more information please see www.digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/clinical-audits-and-registries/national-diabetes-audit

If you do not want your information to be used, please inform the receptionist, your GP or nurse in writing. They will make sure that this is noted on your medical records, so your information is not included. This will not affect your care in any way.

8. Anonymised information

Sometimes we may provide information about you in an anonymised form. If we do so, then none of the information we provide to any other party will identify you as an individual and cannot be traced back to you.

9. Your rights as a patient

The law gives you certain rights to your personal and healthcare information that we hold, as set out below:

a) Access and Subject Access Requests

You have the right to see what information we hold about you and to request a copy of this information. If you would like a copy of the information, we hold about you please email the practice at Baldocksurgery.reception@nhs.net. We will provide this information free of charge however, we may in some limited and exceptional circumstances have to make an administrative charge for any extra copies if the information requested is excessive, complex or repetitive.

We have one month to reply to you and give you the information that you require. We would ask, therefore, that any requests you make are in writing and it is made clear to us what and how much information you require.

b) Online Access

You may ask us if you wish to have online access to your medical record. However, there will be certain protocols that we have to follow in order to give you online access, including written consent and production of documents that prove your identity.

Please note that when we give you online access, the responsibility is yours to make sure that you keep your information safe and secure if you do not wish any third party to gain access.

c) Correction

We want to make sure that your personal information is accurate and up to date. You may ask us to correct any information you think is inaccurate. It is very important that you make sure you tell us if your contact details including your mobile phone number has changed.

d) Removal

You have the right to ask for your information to be removed however, if we require this information to assist us in providing you with appropriate medical services and diagnosis for your healthcare, then removal may not be possible.

e) Objection

We cannot share your information with anyone else for a purpose that is not directly related to your health, e.g. medical research, educational purposes, etc. We would ask you for your consent in order to do this however, you have

the right to request that your personal and healthcare information is not shared by the surgery in this way. Please refer to the anonymised Information section in this Privacy Notice.

f) **Transfer**

You have the right to request that your personal and/or healthcare information is transferred, in an electronic form (or other form), to another organisation, but we will require your clear consent to be able to do this.

10. Third parties mentioned on your medical record

Sometimes we record information about third parties mentioned by you to us during any consultation. We are under an obligation to make sure we also protect that third party's rights as an individual and to ensure that references to them which may breach their rights to confidentiality, are removed before we send any information to any other party including yourself. Third parties can include spouses, partners, and other family members.

11. How we use the information about you

We use your personal and healthcare information in the following ways:

- a) when we need to speak to, or contact other doctors, consultants, nurses or any other medical/healthcare professional or organisation during the course of your diagnosis or treatment or on going healthcare;
- b) when we are required by law to hand over your information to any other organisation, such as the police, by court order, solicitors, or immigration enforcement.

We will never pass on your personal information to anyone else who does not need it, or has no right to it, unless you give us clear consent to do so.

12. Legal justification for collecting and using your information

The law says we need a **legal basis** to handle your personal and healthcare information.

CONTRACT: We have a contract with Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Board (ICB) to deliver healthcare services to you. This contract provides that we are under a legal obligation to ensure that we deliver medical and healthcare services to the public.

CONSENT: Sometimes we also rely on the fact that you give us consent to use your personal and healthcare information so that we can take care of your healthcare needs. Please note that you have the right to withdraw consent at any time if you no

longer wish to receive services from us.

NECESSARY CARE: Providing you with the appropriate healthcare, where necessary. The law refers to this as ‘protecting your vital interests’ where you may be in a position not to be able to consent.

LAW: Sometimes the law obliges us to provide your information to an organisation (see above).

13. Special categories

The law states that personal information about your health falls into a special category of information because it is very sensitive. Reasons that may entitle us to use and process your information may be as follows:

PUBLIC INTEREST: Where we may need to handle your personal information when it is considered to be in the public interest. For example, when there is an outbreak of a specific disease and we need to contact you for treatment, or we need to pass your information to relevant organisations to ensure you receive advice and/or treatment.

CONSENT: When you have given us consent.

VITAL INTEREST: If you are incapable of giving consent, and we have to use your information to protect your vital interests (e.g. if you have had an accident and you need emergency treatment).

DEFENDING A CLAIM: If we need your information to defend a legal claim against us by you, or by another party.

PROVIDING YOU WITH MEDICAL CARE: Where we need your information to provide you with medical and healthcare services.

14. How long we keep your personal information

We carefully consider any personal information that we store about you, and we will not keep your information for longer than is necessary for the purposes as set out in this Privacy Notice.

15. If English is not your first language

If English is not your first language you can request a translation of this Privacy Notice. Please email our practice Data Controller, Baldocksurgery.reception@nhs.net.

16. Complaints

If you have a concern about the way we handle your personal data or you have a

complaint about what we are doing, or how we have used or handled your personal and/or healthcare information, then please contact the Data Protection Officer at hweicbenh.dpo-gpcontractedservice@nhs.net.

*In this initial email, please only indicate you wish to raise a concern about how your personal information is being processed. Please do not provide any details at this stage. On receipt of this email you will be contacted and requested to provide adequate, relevant and limited information necessary in relation to the purposes for which your concern is being processed.

However, you have a right to raise any concern or complaint with the UK information regulator, at the Information Commissioner's Office: <https://ico.org.uk/>.

17. Our website

The only website this Privacy Notice applies to is the Surgery's website. If you use a link to any other website from the Surgery's website then you will need to read that website's respective privacy notice. We take no responsibility (legal or otherwise) for the content of other websites.

18. Cookies

The Surgery's website uses cookies. For more information on which cookies we use and how we use them, please see our Cookies Policy.

19. Security

We take the security of your information very seriously and we do everything we can to ensure that your information is always protected and secure. We regularly update our processes and systems and we also ensure that our staff are properly trained. We also carry out assessments and audits of the information that we hold about you and make sure that if we provide any other services, we carry out proper assessments and security reviews.

20. Text messaging and contacting you

Because we are obliged to protect any confidential information we hold about you and we take this very seriously, it is imperative that you let us know immediately if you change any of your contact details.

We may contact you using SMS texting to your mobile phone in the event that we need to notify you about appointments and other services that we provide to you involving your direct care, therefore you must ensure that we have your up-to-date details. This is to ensure we are sure we are actually contacting you and not another person.

21. Where to find our Privacy Notice

You may find a copy of this Privacy Notice in the Surgery's reception, on our website, or a copy may be provided on request.

22. Changes to our Privacy Notice

We regularly review and update our Privacy Notice. This Privacy Notice was last updated in May 2023.