



**Healthier
Scotland**
Scottish
Government

NHS SCOTLAND IS IMPROVING THE WAY IT USES INFORMATION FROM YOUR GP PATIENT RECORD

NHS Scotland is improving the way it uses information from your GP patient record – this information sheet explains what it means for you.

The improved service is called **Scottish Primary Care Information Resource (SPIRE)** and has been developed to help GPs, the NHS in Scotland and researchers plan for Scotland's health and care needs. This will be introduced in phases across Scotland from January 2017.

The benefits of the improved service are :

- Improving the quality of care for all patients
- Planning services and care for people who have a condition or a health need
- Responding to major public health issues like flu epidemics
- Improving the provision of health and care to vulnerable or disadvantaged groups
- Developing knowledge about the uptake of vital medicines and vaccines
- Supporting research into new treatments for particular illnesses

If you are happy for NHS Scotland to use information from your GP patient records then you don't need to do anything. It will happen automatically. To protect your confidentiality, your details will be encrypted before they are sent, so you can be confident that your information is secure at all times.

If you have any questions about SPIRE or want to know more about how we manage confidential information, visit our website at spire.scot. Alternatively call NHS Inform on 0800 22 44 88.

If you do not want information from your GP patient records to be used in this way, you can download an opt-out form from the SPIRE website – spire.scot. This should be completed and handed in to your GP Practice.

Please note, your GP Practice does not carry supplies of this opt-out form.

