

## COVID-19 Privacy Notice

*(This Privacy Notice is to run alongside our standard Practice Privacy Notice)*

Due to the unprecedented challenges that the NHS and we, Unity Health face due to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, there is a greater need for public bodies to require additional collection and sharing of personal data to protect against serious threats to public health.

In order to look after your healthcare needs in the most efficient way we, Unity Health may therefore need to share your personal information, including medical records, with staff from other GP Practices including Practices within our Primary Care Network, as well as other health organisations (i.e. Clinical Commissioning Groups, Commissioning Support Units, Local authorities etc.) and bodies engaged in disease surveillance for the purposes of research, protecting public health, providing healthcare services to the public and monitoring and managing the Covid-19 outbreak and incidents of exposure.

The Secretary of State has served notice under Regulation 3(4) of the **Health Service (Control of Patient Information) Regulations 2002 (COPI)** to require organisations to process confidential patient information in the manner set out below for purposes set out in Regulation 3(1) of COPI.

### **Purpose of this Notice**

The purpose of this Notice is to require organisations such as Unity Health to process confidential patient information for the purposes set out in Regulation 3(1) of COPI to support the Secretary of State's response to Covid-19 (Covid-19 Purpose). "Processing" for these purposes is defined in Regulation 3(2) and includes dissemination of confidential patient information to persons and organisations permitted to process confidential patient information under Regulation 3(3) of COPI. This Notice is necessary to require organisations such as Unity Health to lawfully and efficiently process confidential patient information as set out in Regulation 3(2) of COPI for purposes defined in regulation 3(1), for the purposes of research, protecting public health, providing healthcare services to the public and monitoring and managing the Covid-19 outbreak and incidents of exposure.

### **Requirement to Process Confidential Patient Information**

The Secretary of State has served notice to recipients under Regulation 3(4) that requires Unity Health to process confidential patient information, including disseminating to a person or organisation permitted to process confidential patient information under Regulation 3(3) of COPI.

Unity Health is only required to process such confidential patient information:

- where the confidential patient information to be processed is required for a Covid-19 Purpose and will be processed solely for that Covid-19 Purpose in accordance with Regulation 7 of COPI

- from 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 until 30th September 2020.

### **Covid-19 Purpose.**

A Covid-19 Purpose includes but is not limited to the following:

- understanding Covid-19 and risks to public health, trends in Covid-19 and such risks, and controlling and preventing the spread of Covid-19 and such risks
- identifying and understanding information about patients or potential patients with or at risk of Covid-19, information about incidents of patient exposure to Covid-19 and the management of patients with or at risk of Covid-19 including: locating, contacting, screening, flagging and monitoring such patients and collecting information about and providing services in relation to testing, diagnosis, self-isolation, fitness to work, treatment, medical and social interventions and recovery from Covid-19
- understanding information about patient access to health services and adult social care services and the need for wider care of patients and vulnerable groups as a direct or indirect result of Covid-19 and the availability and capacity of those services or that care
- monitoring and managing the response to Covid-19 by health and social care bodies and the Government including providing information to the public about Covid-19 and its effectiveness and information about capacity, medicines, equipment, supplies, services and the workforce within the health services and adult social care services
- delivering services to patients, clinicians, the health services and adult social care services workforce and the public about and in connection with Covid-19, including the provision of information, fit notes and the provision of health care and adult social care services
- research and planning in relation to Covid-19.

### **Recording of processing**

A record will be kept by Unity Health of all data processed under this Notice.

### **Sending Public Health Messages**

Data protection and electronic communication laws will not stop Unity Health from sending public health messages to you, either by phone, text or email as these messages are not direct marketing.

### **Digital Consultations**

It may also be necessary, where the latest technology allows Unity Health to do so, to use your information and health data to facilitate digital consultations and diagnoses and we will always do this with your security in mind.

### **Visitors to The Practice**

We have an obligation to protect our staff and employees' health, so it is reasonable for staff at Unity Health to ask any visitors to our practice to tell us if they have visited a particular country, or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. This must only be in pre-approved circumstances and we would also ask all patients to consider government advice on the NHS 111 website and not attend the practice.

Where it is necessary for us to collect information and specific health data about visitors to our practice, we will not collect more information than we need, and we will ensure that any information collected is treated with the appropriate safeguards.

### **Review and Expiry of this Notice**

This Notice will be reviewed on or before **30 September 2020** and may be extended by The Secretary of State. If no further notice is sent to Unity Health by The Secretary of State this Notice will expire on 30 September 2020.