**NHS Your Data Matters**

Information about your health and care helps us to improve your individual care, speed up diagnosis, plan your local services and research new treatments.

In May 2018, the strict rules about how this data can and cannot be used were strengthened. The NHS is committed to keeping patient information safe and always being clear about how it is used.

***We are committed to complying to right of access requests under Data Protection Act 2018 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.***

*However, the NHS is facing unprecedented challenges relating to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic at the current time.  Understandably, our resources have been diverted to support our front-line colleagues who are working tremendously hard to provide care for our patients, and to those in need of our services.*

*The Information Commissioners Office has recognised the current situation in the NHS* [*https://ico.org.uk/about-the-ico/news-and-events/icos-blog-on-its-information-rights-work/*](https://ico.org.uk/about-the-ico/news-and-events/icos-blog-on-its-information-rights-work/)*.*

*We strive to be transparent and to work with an open culture.  But at this time, whilst care of our patients and the safety of our staff takes precedent, it is likely that responses to some requests for information or records will be delayed.  We apologise for this position in advance, and will endeavour to provide you with as much information as we can, as soon as we are able.*

*It may therefore take up to the statutory deadline of 3 months in certain cases to respond to Subject Access Requests.*

*For Freedom of Information requests, the Practice will try and continue to process them as normal, but this will be dependent on the availability of staff.*

*If you have a complaint linked to how we are dealing with requests, please contact the Practice as noted on our website*

You can choose whether your confidential patient information is used for research and planning.

For more information about your data rights please visit

<https://www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters/>

 [The Information Commissioner’s Office - ICO](https://www.elmhurstpractice.co.uk/The%20Information%20Commissioner%E2%80%99s%20Office%20-%20ICO)