



What is the Connecting Care Local Record?

The Connecting Care Local Record is a new way for staff who are directly involved in your care to share relevant information about your care in a way that is both controlled and consistent.

Later this year, health and social care professionals across Bristol, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset will be able to access the Connecting Care Record.

This is a single electronic view of specific, up-to-date, information relating to your care. It shows doctors and nurses a summary of your existing records, such as those at your GP, hospital or social care provider.

By having a Connecting Care Record, health and social care staff who are caring for you will be able to coordinate and manage your care better.

Who will be able to have access to my Connecting Care Record?

Your Connecting Care Record will only be available to authorised health and social care staff who are directly involved in your care. They will only do so with legitimate reason, and if they can they will ask your permission before they look at it.

This record will only be used to support your care locally. It will ensure that the people caring for you have enough information to treat you safely and to coordinate your care across services.

What information can they access?

Your Connecting Care Record will contain information on:

- Who is involved in your care
- Any allergies you have
- Your medications
- Your recent appointments (but only that you attended, this will not include any information about what you discussed at that appointment)
- Diagnoses

This information can help support your treatment and better care at services in your area.

Your Connecting Care record will not contain information about conversations you have had with your GP or any information on sensitive subjects such as sexual health.

How will the Connecting Care record benefit me?

Currently a lot of information on your care is already shared –mainly by letter, fax, email or phone. In some cases this can mean that there are delays- for example your GP may have to wait several days for a letter to be received about your admission to hospital. Information could be available immediately to your GP via your Connecting Care Record

- Connecting Care will mean that your care should be improved as Information is shared more quickly and safely
- Your care can be better coordinated between the different professionals who are directly involved in your care
- Information that may be important to your safety and care (such as your allergies, adverse reactions or previous medicines) will be shared.

How will I know if I have a Connecting Care Record?

In August 2013, you will receive a letter informing you about the Connecting Care Record and the national Summary Care Record, and offering you the chance to opt out of both.

If you didn't opt out, and you are registered with a GP in the area, then you will have a Connecting Care Record.

What if I don't want a Connecting Care Record?

You can opt out of the Connecting Care Record either by telephoning PALS (Patient Advice and Liaison Service) on: Freephone 0800 073 0907, or 0117 947 4477 or you can download and fill in the opt out form and return it to:

Connecting Care South West Commissioning Support
5th Floor
South Plaza
Marlborough Street
BS1 3NX

Alternatively completed forms can be emailed to Sarah.Jenkins@swcsu.nhs.uk

Copies of the opt out form can also be requested from PALS on: 0800 073 0907 (Freephone), or 0117 947 4477

If you choose to not to have a Connecting Care Record then your records will stay as they are now with information being shared by letter, email, fax or phone.

It is likely that some Health and Social care staff caring for you may not be aware of your current medications, allergies you suffer from and any bad reactions to medicines you have had, in order to treat you safely in an emergency.

If you choose to opt out of having a Connecting Care Record, and then change your mind later, Please contact PALS on 0800 073 0907 (Freephone) or 0117 947 4477

Can I access my Connecting Care Record?

Connecting Care does not contain any new information and does not currently provide access for individuals to their own data. Under the Data Protection Act, if you wish to see the information that is held on you please contact the organisation(s) providing your care.

What is the difference between my Connecting Care Record and the Summary Care Record?

Your Connecting Care record is only available across Bristol but helps those involved in your care see the different agencies who are also involved for example GPs, hospitals and social care. This means that the main three hospital trusts used by people in Bristol are participating in this (e.g. Weston Hospital, Bristol Hospitals such as the BRI, Southmead and Frenchay).

Summary Care records are a national initiative using much less information - more likely to be used in an emergency, for example in the case of Accident and Emergency and containing critical information such as medication and allergies.

More questions?

Please contact PALS on: 0800 073 0907 (Freephone), or 0117 947 4477