



## SUFFOLK PRIMARY CARE PARTNERSHIP: WORKING TOGETHER FOR OUR PATIENTS

The NHS is under great strain. Difficulties replacing retiring GPs, a rapid rise in the needs of an ageing population and financial constraints at a national level are putting services under increasing pressure.

As a result, GP practices such as ours are having to look at new ways of operating. The partners at the following practices have agreed to work in much closer collaboration.

Brandon Medical Practice  
Combs Ford Surgery  
Deben Road Surgery  
Debenham Group Practice  
Haven Health Surgery

Howard House Surgery  
Lakenheath Surgery  
Leiston Surgery  
Norwich Road Surgery  
Oakfield Surgery

Orchard House Surgery  
Stowhealth  
Walton Surgery

This kind of partnership has been very successful in other parts of the UK and we are confident it will make best use of our resources – allowing us to share our expertise and ensure patients continue to receive the best possible care.

By working together, we will also be able to draw on the skills of other highly trained colleagues such as pharmacists, nurses and paramedics.

### GP SURGERIES ARE REQUIRED TO:

- Maintain full and accurate records of the care we provide to you
- Keep records about you confidential and secure
- Provide information in a format that is accessible (e.g. in large type if you are partially sighted)

### WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOUR PATIENT RECORDS?

Your patient records will be kept by your registered surgery but may be shared across the partnership to support collaboration – unless you tell us otherwise.

### IF YOU OBJECT

You have the right to object to other surgeries seeing your medical records.

If you choose to object, then your access to the joint services provided may be affected but access to your current surgery will not be interrupted.

### INFORMATION ABOUT YOU

The surgery teams aim to provide you with the highest quality care that is safe, based on good quality information and which allows us to work effectively with others involved in your care. To do this we must keep records about you, your health and the care we have provided, or plan to provide. These records may include:



- Basic details such as address, date of birth and next of kin
- Contact we have had with you
- Notes and reports about your health
- Details and records about your treatment and care

The surgeries will:

- Discuss and agree with you what we are going to record
- Show you what we have recorded, if you ask

## SHARING YOUR INFORMATION

Others may also need to use records about you to:

- Check the quality of care you are receiving
- Protect the health of the public
- Keep track of NHS spending
- Help investigate any concerns or complaints you or your family have about your health care
- Teach health workers
- Help with research

Sometimes we share your information with third parties such as:

- Hospitals
- Social care
- Community Health
- Clinical Commissioning Groups
- Mental Health

We will not share information that can identify you with others unless;

- We ask and you give us permission
- When required or allowed in law
- We have special permission for health or research purposes (e.g. if you have agreed to take part in a research trial)
- It is in the public interest (e.g. there is a risk of serious harm or crime)

By law, you have the right to confidentiality. You also have the right to ask for a copy of the records.

- Your request must be made in writing to your surgery
- If you request a printed copy of the information, a charge will apply
- The surgery is required to respond to your request in writing within 40 days
- You will need to give the surgery your full name, address, date of birth and NHS number
- You will be required to provide personal identification such as a driving licence or passport

For more information or to object to your data being shared across the partnership, please contact your local surgery Practice Manager in the first instance.