



use the
NHS Number

NHS

Connecting for Health

NHS Number Programme

Important reasons for general practices to use an NHS Number:

- Accurately links the patient to their record
- Allows referrals to be made using Choose and Book
- Allows the transfer of patient records electronically using GP2GP
- Allows electronic prescription messages
- Accurately identify patients in all referrals to secondary care.

"From a GP perspective, clinical safety and having the right patient, right record, every time, is the top priority"

Dr Peter Short (General Practitioner)

Help identify every patient correctly whenever they seek care by:

- Asking the patient to confirm that their NHS Number, first name, last name, date of birth and postcode are all correct
- Asking the patient to confirm that this information is the same as that held at their GP practice.

For further information on why the NHS Number is important visit www.connectingforhealth.co.uk/nhsnumber

Important improvements reception staff can make to patient safety:

- Ask the patient to provide the appointment letter or card with their NHS Number printed on it
- Checking if each patient has an NHS Number on your system
- Asking each patient to check their names are spelt correctly to help locate their NHS Number, and checking their date of birth
- Obtaining the correct NHS Number for each patient at the beginning of the episode of care.



