



Your emergency care summary

Yardley Wood Health Centre sees future benefits of Summary Care Records

A Summary Care Record is a secure electronic summary of a patient's key health information that is available to authorised healthcare staff providing care to patients in an emergency.

A patient's Summary Care Record holds their medications, allergies they suffer from, and any adverse reactions to medications they have had.

NHS healthcare staff will have quicker access to key health information, which means they can provide safer care to patients during an emergency, when a GP practice is closed or when a patient is away from home in another part of England.

Dr Colin Eagle, Senior Partner at Yardley Wood Health Centre, has seen the healthcare needs of his patients change significantly throughout his 24 years working at the centre.



A high proportion of the patients that are registered at Yardley Wood Health Centre are elderly and many have chronic or long-term illnesses.

The introduction of Summary Care Records has benefited the health

centre and patients in many ways. Dr. Eagle explains: "I first found out about Summary Care Records from my Practice Manager Angela, and went to a meeting that was held for local doctors by the Local Medical Committee (LMC).



Your emergency care summary

“It was then clear to me that this system could help me in my future work, caring for my patients.

“Patients who have a chronic illness, often say to me that when they go on holiday they are concerned that if they have an acute episode, their family would not be able to explain their condition to the doctors and nurses treating them.

“Having a Summary Care Record will provide basic information that will help in their treatment.”

Summary Care Records are available for healthcare staff treating patients in an emergency.

Healthcare staff who look at a patient’s Summary Care Record need to be directly involved in their care and have a Smartcard with a chip and passcode (like a bank card and PIN).

Healthcare staff will need to ask permission every time they look at a patient’s Summary Care Record. They will only see the information they need to do their job and will have their actions recorded.

Patients can choose not to have a Summary Care Record if they wish. Before any records were made for patients at Yardley Wood Medical Centre, patients were informed about Summary Care Records and their choices by their local NHS, as part of the Public Information Programme.

“My main concern was how my patients would react to the idea of parts of their record being held on a national computer. Most of our patients could see the potential benefits of having a Summary Care Record and only a few took the decision to opt out.”

To find out more about Summary Care Records, please visit:
www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/systemsandservices/scr

NHS Connecting for Health is supporting the NHS to introduce national applications and services such as the Summary Care Record. These will help the NHS deliver better care for patients.