



## Your emergency care summary

# Bradshaw Brow Practice introduces patients' Summary Care Records

A Summary Care Record is a secure electronic summary of key health information 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 medicines 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.

NHS Bolton was one of the first areas in England to start uploading patient Summary Care Records. Dr. Julie McMillen, a GP at Bradshaw Brow Practice in Bolton had initial concerns about the introduction of Summary Care Records:



“When I heard that Bolton was going to be one of the first PCTs in the country to start uploading Summary Care Records I was very concerned as everything I had read in the medical press, was quite negative, so I went along to the engagement events to find out more information.

“I've had a lot of worries about patients' records going anywhere outside of our GP Practice really because I know how

important confidentiality is to patients.”

Summary Care Records are available for healthcare staff in an emergency or out-of-hours. Healthcare staff who look at a patient's Summary Care Record need to be directly involved in their care, need to have a Smartcard with a chip and passcode (like a bank card and PIN).

Healthcare staff need to ask permission every time



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they need to look at a patient's Summary Care Record. They will only see the information they need to do their job and will have their details recorded.

"I came round to the opinion that, in fact, it's not our information that we hold on patients' records it's the patient's information," comments Julie.

"I feel that if patients wanted to share their information, then that was their decision."

Patients may wish to add other details about their care to their Summary Care Record. This will only happen if they ask for the information to be included.

Patients can choose not to have a Summary Care Record if they wish.

Before any records are made, patients will be informed about Summary Care Records and their choices by their local NHS.

"I felt that the opportunity that was going to be given to patients to make their decision was going to be well planned," added Julie.

"Patients are going to be sent an addressed envelope with their name on it explaining the changes to their health records.

"There were also lots of opportunities for patients who didn't speak English or were

unlikely to understand the information, to order the leaflet in a different format or language.

"Local practices were also going to hold sessions for patients to provide them with more information."

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### To find out more about Summary Care Records:

- Visit: [www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/systemsandservices/scr](http://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.