

Use of patient information in the Service

We want to offer the best possible service to patients. To do this, we have to assess our effectiveness and continually improve patient care, which means we need to collect data about our patients, their treatment and the outcomes and analyse it. The leaflet describes how the information helps to improve patient care.

What information is collected by the service?

This service collects information about you and the care you receive, including the assessments, results of tests and your answers to questionnaires. This enables your progress to be monitored and future care planned. The information may be shared with other health professionals involved in your care, so that you get the best possible care. If you would like to see the information collected about you or find out more about how the information is stored and used locally please speak with the people who are treating you.

What information is collected nationally?

Some of this information collected is reported nationally to give a picture of service delivered across the country, to check that quality standards are similar everywhere. **No information that could reveal a patient's identity is used in national reports.** These reports only show summary numbers of, for instance, patients receiving different types of treatments and it is impossible to identify any person by any Increasing Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) service from them. Security of patient information is very important in IAPT Services.

How is the information used nationally?

The information collected is used to check that:

- ❖ Services are available to those who need them
- ❖ An appropriate range of NICE (National Institute for Healthcare and Excellence) compliant treatments is provided
- ❖ Patients achieve positive outcomes from treatment.

National reports offer huge service delivery benefits by checking, for example, numbers of referrals received, time taken to access services, the type of treatments used and the outcomes of those treatments. Also, under the Equality Act 2010, the NHS has to monitor personal characteristics and check everyone has equal access to services and is not discriminated against in any way.

How we keep your information safe?

The Service stores all information safely and securely and sends national reporting information safely to a secure central data storage area. All data collected is subject to the strict rules of confidentiality, laid down by Acts of Parliament, including the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Health and Social Care Act 2001 and the NHS Care Record Guarantee.

Do you need to use my information?

IAPT national reports off the most benefit when they use information from as many patients as possible, because this creates the most accurate picture of Services. If, however, you do **not** want your information included in national analysis, please tell the people who are treating you and they will make sure your information is not used. **This will not affect your treatment in any way.**