

Your health information – your choice



The West Midlands Secure Data Environment (West Midlands SDE) will allow researchers to see and analyse your health and care information, along with that of other people living in our region. Health and care planners might do the same.

Bringing together all this information in a safe and secure way, will help researchers and health and care planners understand how to improve the health of people living in the West Midlands.






It will lead to the development of new medicines, treatments and healthcare technologies faster and more efficiently than before. It will make care better for everyone, including you, your family and your friends. It can even help save lives.

The West Midlands Secure Data Environment is part of a national programme run by the NHS, under strict levels of privacy and security.

- It is owned and run by the NHS
- It uses the strictest, most up-to-date security
- We will very carefully check researchers and health and care planners and why they want to use the West Midlands SDE
- We will allow researchers and health and care planners to see only the information they need to answer their research and health and care planning questions, and only in secure and controlled settings
- Local people, like you, are involved to make sure the West Midlands SDE stays safe and private, and that the research and health and care planning the West Midlands SDE supports will help solve health problems for people in our local communities.

If you do not want your health information used for research and health and care planning

The ticks below show which opt-out service you need to choose if you want to stop your health information being used in this way.

	Local data opt-out	Type 1 opt-out	National data opt-out
	Opting out through this service means only that your health and care information will not be used for research and health and care planning supported by the West Midlands SDE	Opting out through this service means only that your GP practice will not be able to share the health information it holds about you for research and planning	Opting out through this service means none of your health information, no matter which organisation holds it, will be used for any research or health and care planning at all
For health information held by your local doctor (your GP)			
For health information held by a hospital, other health and care organisations, or NHS England			
For health information held within the West Midlands Secure Data Environment			

Local data opt-out: For health information held within the West Midlands Secure Data Environment

If you would like to opt out **only** from allowing your health information to be used for research and health and care planning supported through the West Midlands Secure Data Environment, you can do this through our website at

<https://westmidlandssde.nhs.uk/your-data/local-data-opt-out/>.

Please save and complete the **West Midlands SDE opt-out form** you'll find on the web page. You can then email it to us at WMSDEOptout@uhb.nhs.uk,

or post it to:

**West Midlands SDE
R&D
1st Floor
ITM
Heritage Building
Queen Elizabeth Hospital
Birmingham
B15 2TH**

You will need your:

- full name
- NHS number
- date of birth
- address
- email address

Please also sign the declaration on the form.

You will be able to opt back in at any time by saving and completing a copy of the **West Midlands SDE opt-in form** that you'll find on the same web page. Please follow the instructions outlined above to complete and return it to us.

We are also setting up a way you can give us your details by phone if you would prefer us to complete the form for you. As soon as this service is available, we will publish more information on our website at

<https://westmidlandssde.nhs.uk/your-data/local-data-opt-out/>.





Type 1 opt-out: For health information held by your local doctor (your GP)

Your GP record contains confidential patient information that identifies you.

If you do not want this shared outside your GP practice for anything other than your individual care, you can register a **Type 1 opt-out** with your GP practice. This includes information in your GP record being used for research and health and care planning.

A Type 1 opt-out will stop this information being used without your explicit consent for anything other than your direct care, except when it is required by law, for instance in a public health emergency such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

If you do choose to opt out, you can change your choice at any time.

You can find more information, including a form to opt out or opt back in, at www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/about-the-nhs/opt-out-of-sharing-your-health-records/.

You will need to return the completed form to your GP surgery.

Please note: You can only register this opt-out at your GP practice. If you would like to discuss this opt-out, please talk with your GP or the healthcare professional supporting you.

National data opt-out: For health information held by a hospital, other health and care organisations, or NHS England

If you do not want your health data held by these organisations to be used for research or the planning of health and care services, you can opt out through the **national data opt-out service**.

If you do choose to opt out, you can check and change your choice at any time.

You can find more information, and complete an opt-out form, by visiting www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters/.

You can also read more about the importance of your information to the work of the NHS on this website:

www.digital.nhs.uk/services/national-data-opt-out/supporting-patients-information-and-resources.



Please email us at WMSDEOptout@uhb.nhs.uk if:

- you have questions about opting out
- you would like this information in other languages or formats.

