

Mill Dental National data opt out policy

All patients have the right to opt out of having their data shared.

The NHS collects confidential patient information from:

- All NHS organisations, trust and local authorities
- Private organisations, such as private hospitals providing NHS funded care

Research bodies and organisations can request access to this information. This includes:

- University researchers
- Hospital researchers
- Medical royal colleges
- Pharmaceutical companies researching new treatments.

Confidential patient information is looked after in accordance with good practice and the law.

Every organisation that provides health and care services takes every step to:

- keep data secure
- use data that cannot identify a person whenever possible
- use data to benefit health and care
- not use data for marketing or insurance purposes (unless they request this)
- make it clear why and how data is being used

A patient's choice does not apply when:

- Required by law, such as a court order.
- Consent has been given, such as for a medical research study.
- There is an overriding public interest. In an emergency or in a situation when the safety of others is most important. For example, to help manage contagious diseases like coronavirus and stop them spreading.
- Information that can identify them is removed. Information about health care or treatment might still be used in research and planning if the information that can identify them is removed first.
- There is a specific exclusion, for example, for official national statistics like a population census.

The national opt-out is to allow people to opt-out of their personal confidential data being used for purposes beyond their direct care.

Patients can make their choice by going to <https://www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters/manage-your-choice/>

If at any time Mill Dental Practice wishes to use patient's data for research and planning, consent must be obtained prior to undertaking any such actions. NHS Digital have developed a technical service which will enable health and adult social care organisations to check if their patients have a national data opt-out. Prior to contacting patients to obtain consent to take part in any research this service should be used to allow Mill Dental to identify those patients who have opted out and removed consent.

This service can be used by going to: <https://digital.nhs.uk/services/national-data-opt-out/compliance-with-the-national-data-opt-out/check-for-national-data-opt-outs-service>

For further information on the National Opt-Out and advice on implementing policies can be found on: <https://digital.nhs.uk/services/national-data-opt-out>

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