



Privacy notice for private hospital patients

This leaflet explains why your hospital shares information about your treatment with the Private Healthcare Information Network (PHIN), and what happens to your information.

What is PHIN?

PHIN is the official 'information organisation' under the [Competition & Markets Authority \(CMA\) Private Healthcare Market Investigation Order 2014ⁱ](#). We collect and publish information about the activity and performance of hospitals and doctors providing private hospital care, which means care not funded by the NHS. We do this in order to help people to choose their care providers.

All hospitals providing private care are required by law to send us details of each episode of care. This will include some of your personal data, although we will not be able to identify you.

Our website is www.phin.org.uk.

What information does your hospital share with PHIN?

- Your age
- Your gender
- Your ethnicity or race
- Your diagnosis (what you are receiving treatment for)
- Other information about your state of health
- The procedure you have undergone
- The date you came into hospital, and the date you left
- Your postcode

PHIN cannot identify you from any of the above information or any patient information we process. For example, the above information would be insufficient to contact you in any way.

What does PHIN do with the information?

We publish how many patients each hospital and each doctor treats privately, how long they stay in hospital, and how safe and effective the care delivered is, using measures aligned to the NHS. We need to know ages, locations and other details because these can affect the complexity of providing care, and we take those factors into account when measuring quality.

What is the lawful basis for the processing of my information?

PHIN is a data controller for the information it processes as described in this notice. Under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the legal bases for processing your personal information that PHIN relies upon are:

- Article 6(1c) compliance with a legal obligation.
- Article 9(2h) management of health or social care systems and services.
- Article 9(2i) ensuring high standards of quality and safety of health care.

For more information about these, please visit the ICO websiteⁱⁱ.

Is my information secure?

Yes, your information is held securely and although we know which records belong to an individual patient we never know who the patient is. Only your hospital and hospital doctor will know who you are.

PHIN complies with the Data Protection Act 2018, the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and NHS requirements for patient confidentiality. We are certified to the ISO27001 international standard for information security management systems, and have been audited by NHS Digital, the national information authority.

How long does PHIN hold my information for?

PHIN will retain your personal information for a maximum of seven years; this is to enable analysis of long term trends. Once this information is no longer required it is permanently deleted. Please note, that PHIN cannot identify you personally from this information.

What if I don't want my information shared with PHIN?

By law, your hospital must share the data listed above with PHIN to comply with the CMA Order.

For more information and how to contact PHIN

For more information, please visit our website at www.phin.org.uk.

To contact our Data Protection Officer, or if you have questions or a complaint, please email info@phin.org.uk or write to us at 11 Cavendish Square, London W1G 0AN.

ⁱ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/private-healthcare-market-investigation-order-2014>

ⁱⁱ <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/lawful-basis-for-processing/>