

CURTIN UNIVERSITY HEALTH SERVICE PRIVACY POLICY

Current as of June 2023

Introduction

This privacy policy is to provide information to you, our patient, on how your personal information (which includes your health information) is collected and used within our practice, and the circumstances in which we may share it with third parties.

Why and when your consent is necessary

When you register as a patient of our practice, you provide consent for our GPs and practice staff to access and use your personal information so they can provide you with the best possible healthcare. Only staff who need to see your personal information will have access to it. If we need to use your information for anything else, we will seek additional consent from you to do this.

Why do we collect, use, hold and share your personal information?

Our practice will need to collect your personal information to provide healthcare services to you. Our main purpose for collecting, using, holding, and sharing your personal information is to manage your health. We also use it for directly related business activities, such as financial claims and payments, practice audits and accreditation, and business processes (e.g., staff training).

What personal information do we collect?

The information we will collect about you includes your:

- names, date of birth, addresses, contact details
- medical information including medical history, medications, allergies, adverse events, immunisations, social history, family history and risk factors
- Medicare number (where available) for identification and claiming purposes
- healthcare identifiers
- health fund details.

Dealing with us anonymously

You have the right to deal with us anonymously or under a pseudonym unless it is impracticable for us to do so or unless we are required or authorised by law to only deal with identified individuals.

How do we collect your personal information?

Our practice may collect your personal information in several different ways.

1. When you make your first appointment our practice staff will collect your personal and demographic information via your registration.
2. During the course of providing medical services, we may collect further personal information.
3. We may also collect your personal information when you visit our website, send us an email or SMS, telephone us, make an online appointment or communicate with us using social media.
4. In some circumstances personal information may also be collected from other sources. Often this is because it is not practical or reasonable to collect it from you directly. This may include information from:
 - your guardian or responsible person
 - other involved healthcare providers, such as specialists, allied health professionals, hospitals,

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community health services and pathology and diagnostic imaging services

- your health fund, Medicare, or the Department of Veterans' Affairs (as necessary).

When why and with whom do we share your personal information?

We sometimes share your personal information:

- with third parties who work with our practice for business purposes, such as accreditation agencies or information technology providers – these third parties are required to comply with APPs and this policy
- with other healthcare providers
- when it is required or authorised by law (e.g., court subpoenas)
- when it is necessary to lessen or prevent a serious threat to a patient's life, health or safety or public health or safety, or it is impractical to obtain the patient's consent
- to assist in locating a missing person
- to establish, exercise or defend an equitable claim
- for the purpose of confidential dispute resolution process
- when there is a statutory requirement to share certain personal information (e.g. some diseases require mandatory notification)
- during the course of providing medical services, through eTP, My Health Record (e.g. via Shared Health Summary, Event Summary).

Only people who need to access your information will be able to do so. Other than in the course of providing medical services or as otherwise described in this policy, our practice will not share personal information with any third party without your consent.

We will not share your personal information with anyone outside Australia (unless under exceptional circumstances that are permitted by law) without your consent.

Our practice will not use your personal information for marketing any of our goods or services directly to you without your express consent. If you do consent, you may opt out of direct marketing at any time by notifying our practice in writing.

Our practice may use your personal information to improve the quality of the services we offer to our patients through research and analysis of our patient data.

We may provide de-identified data to other organisations to improve population health outcomes. The information is secure, patients cannot be identified and the information is stored within Australia. You can let our reception staff know if you do not want your information included.

How do we store and protect your personal information?

At Curtin University Health Service, your personal information is stored electronically. On some occasions, we may receive paper documents from other health care providers which we scan and store in your electronic health record. Clinical images may also be received electronically from other health care providers which we capture and transfer into your electronic file.

All staff that have access to electronic records has assigned individual usernames and passwords. All staff complete and sign a confidentiality agreement before commencing employment.

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How can you access and correct your personal information at our practice?

You have the right to request access to, and correction of, your personal information.

Our practice acknowledges patients may request access to their medical records. We require you to put this request in writing and sign our transfer of medical records form. Our practice will endeavor to respond within a reasonable time depending on when your request is authorised by your regular doctor. There may be fees involved with printing and posting your medical records. Please discuss this with the reception staff.

How can you lodge a privacy-related complaint, and how will the complaint be handled at our practice?

We take complaints and concerns regarding privacy seriously. You should express any privacy concerns you may have in writing. We will then attempt to resolve it in accordance with our resolution procedure. Contact details: HManager@curtin.edu.au

We will attempt to respond to complaints in reasonable time frame but on some occasions, this may take up to 30 days.

You may also contact the Health and Disability Services Complaints Office for an independent review relating to your complaint for services provided within Western Australia.

Tel: 08 6551 7600 or 1800 813 583 (Monday to Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm)

Website: <https://www.hadsco.wa.gov.au/>

Privacy and our website

Our website contains links to HotDoc, a secure platform used by Curtin University Health Service to communicate and handle patient information.

HotDoc's privacy policy can be found visiting <https://practices.hotdoc.com.au/privacy-policy/>

Our website may also include links to websites and content used by Curtin University students and staff and to external websites that may be of interest. Curtin University Health Service is not responsible for any personal information that you may provide once you have left our website and websites not governed by this privacy statement.

Curtin University Health Service uses digital cookies to remember your preferences and collect online traffic data and browsing characteristics which is analysed using Google Analytics and other analytics tools.

Policy review statement

State that this privacy policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure it is in accordance with any changes that may occur. Updates on any changes can be found on our website.