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General Data Protection Regulation – Patient Information Sheet

Introduction

GDPR is a new law that determines how your personal data is processed, stored and the legal rights you have in relation to your own data. This regulation was enforced on 25th May 2018.

GDPR will replace the Data Protection Act, it is very similar to the Data Protection Act 1998, which the practice complies with.

The Main changes are:

- The surgery must comply with Subject Access Requests – a written signed request from a patient to see what information is held about them.
- New special protection for personal data.
- The information commissioner's office must be notified within 72 hours of a data breach.
- Higher fines for data breaches

What is Personal Data :

Personal Data is information that is related to a single person, ie. Name, age, address, medical history etc.

What will GDPR mean for patients?

This means the surgery needs to keep your data safe and secure, your data must:

- Be kept secure
- Your records must be accurate and up to date
- be processed lawfully, fairly and transparently
- collected for specific, legitimate purpose
- it can only be retained for as long as is necessary for the reasons it was collected

Patients' Rights:

- to have access to their own data
- to ask to have incorrect information changed
- to restrict how their data is used
- Being informed how their data is being used

Consent:

Consent is permission from a patient. An individual consent is defined as:

- Any freely given
- Specific and informed
- Indication of his/her wishes by which the data subject (patients/staff) agrees to relevant personal data being processed

The changes mean we must gain explicit permission from patients when using their data. This is to protect your right to privacy and we may ask you to provide consent to do certain things like contact you or record certain information about you in your clinical records. Patients have the right to withdraw consent at any time.