



## Peel House Medical Practice—Patient Information Leaflet Accessing GP Records Online – Considerations to be made before applying

Practices are increasingly enabling patients to be able to request repeat prescriptions and book appointments online.

Some patients may wish to access more information about their health record online.

However this requires additional considerations as outlined in this leaflet. We ask that you read and understand this leaflet before consenting and applying to access your records online. The practice will also need to verify your identity.

Please note:

- It will be your responsibility to keep your login details and password safe and secure. If you know or suspect that your record has been accessed by someone that you have not agreed should see it, then you should change your password immediately.
- If you can't do this for some reason, we recommend that you contact the practice so that they can remove online access until you are able to reset your password.
- If you print out any information from your record, it is also your responsibility to keep this secure. If you are at all worried about keeping printed copies safe, we recommend that you do not make copies at all.
- The practice may not be able to offer online access due to a number of reasons such as concerns that it could cause harm to physical or mental health or where there is reference to third parties. The practice has the right to remove online access to services for anyone that doesn't use them responsibly.
- Your login details will be emailed to the address you have provided to us, so please ensure this is a safe email address to send to.

### ***Key considerations to be made***

#### ***Forgotten history***

There may be something you have forgotten about in your record that you might find upsetting.

#### ***Abnormal results or bad news***

If your GP has given you access to test results or letters, you may see something that you find upsetting to you. This may occur before you have spoken to your doctor or while the surgery is closed and you cannot contact them. There may be minor abnormalities that are not clinically significant and will be coded as this for other clinicians viewing your notes, your doctor is aware of this and no new action is needed.

#### ***Choosing to share your information with someone***

It's up to you whether or not you share your information with others – perhaps family members or carers. It's your choice, but also your responsibility to keep the information safe and secure.

#### ***Coercion***

If you think you may be pressured into revealing details from your patient record to someone else against your will, it is best that you do not register for access at this time.

#### ***Misunderstood information***

Your medical record is designed to be used by clinical professionals to ensure that you receive the best possible care. Some of the information within your medical record may be highly technical, written by specialists and not easily understood. If you require further clarification, please contact the surgery for a clearer explanation.

#### ***Information about someone else***

If you spot something in the record that is not about you or notice any other errors, please log out of the system immediately and contact the practice as soon as possible.