

Data Protection Code of Practice for patients

Distinctive Dentistry Ltd

January 2016

Keeping your records

1. This practice complies with the Data Protection Act 1998 and this policy describes our procedures for ensuring that personal information about patients is processed fairly and lawfully.

The personal Data that we hold

2. To provide you with a high standard of dental care and attention, we need to hold personal information about you. This personal data includes;
 - 2.1 Your past and current dental condition, medical history, personal details such as your age, address, tel number and your general medical practitioner.
 - 2.2 Radiographs, clinical photographs and study models
 - 2.3 Information about the treatment we have provided or propose to provide and it's cost.
 - 2.4 Notes of conversations/ incidents about your care, for which a record needs to be kept
 - 2.5 Records of consent to treatment
 - 2.6 Correspondence with other healthcare professionals relating to you e.g. in the hospital service.

Reasons for Holding this Information

3. We need to keep comprehensive and accurate personal data about you to provide you with safe and appropriate dental care

How we Process the Data

4. We will process personal data that we hold about you in the following way

Retaining Information

- 4.1 We will retain your dental records while you are a practice patient and after you cease to be a patient, for at least eleven years or, for children until age 25, whichever is the longer.

Security of Information

- 4.2 Personal data about you is held in the practices computer system and in a manual filing system. The information is not accessible to the public; only authorised members of staff have access to it. Staff are trained in their legal responsibilities under the Data Protection Act and practical procedures for maintaining confidentiality.

We take precautions to keep the practice premises, filing systems and computers physically secure. Our computer system has secure audit trails and we back up information routinely

Disclosure of Information

5. To provide proper and safe dental care, we may need to disclose personal information about you to;
 - 5.1 Your general medical practitioner
 - 5.2 The hospital or community dental services
 - 5.3 Other health professionals caring for you
 - 5.4 HM revenue and customs
 - 5.5 Private dental schemes of which you are a member

Disclosure will take place on a “need to know” basis. Only those individuals or organisations who need to know in order to provide care to you will be given information. Only the information that the recipient needs to know will be disclosed.

In very limited circumstances when required by law or a court order, personal data may be disclosed to a third party not connected with your health care. In all other situations, disclosure that is not covered by this code of practice will only occur when we have your specific consent.

Where possible, you will be informed of these requests for disclosure.

Access

6. You have the right of access to the data that we hold about you and to receive a copy.

Access may be obtained by making a request in writing and the payment of a fee of up to £10 (for records held on computer) or £50 (for those held manually, including non-digital radiographs). We will provide a copy of the record within 40 days of the receipt of the request and fee (where payable) and an explanation of your record should you require it.

If you do not agree

7. If you do not wish personal data that we hold about you to be disclosed in the way that is disclosed in this Code Of Practice, please discuss the matter with your dentist. You have the right to object, but this may affect our ability to provide you with dental care.