

**Information for parents.**

**Medical Record Sharing between GPs and Health Visitors.**

**What information about my child is recorded in the GP record?**

* What you say is the matter, what the doctor sees when they examine your child and what treatment they recommend.
* Other information is also included in the GP record for example - copies of letters sent to the GP about treatment your child has received in hospital, at a clinic or in the emergency department.
* Other professionals may also send letters to the GP, for example social workers, school doctors and teachers. These would be scanned into the GP’s records.
* The GP and the Health Visitor may also record in their own records who lives at home with your child and who the family members are. This can help to ensure that illnesses that might run in the family or difficulties that other family members are having are taken into account when treating your child.

**Why should the Health Visitor and GP be able to see each other’s record?**

* Health records are confidential and can only be accessed by health and care professionals who are caring for you.
* GPs and Health Visitors used to be able to see each other’s records when they worked together in the same GP practice. GPs and Health Visitors no longer share the same offices though and therefore this makes the sharing of information more difficult.
* We think it is important for the Health Visitor, who monitors your child’s growth and development before they start school and provides support to parents, to be able to see the information that the GP has.
* It also might be useful for the GP to see the information that the Health Visitor has before starting treatment.
* There have been previous reports of serious cases where children have been harmed. It was thought that things could have been different if the GP and Health Visitor had shared information about the child.

**In future your GP, Health Visitor and School Nurse will have shared access to the GP’s medical notes on the electronic record system for your child until they are 6 years old.**

**If you do not want the Health Visitor or School Nurse to see the GP records then let your GP surgery know.**

**There may be circumstances where if we are concerned that your child may be at risk of harm we will need to share information without your consent. In most cases we would let you know that we had to do this.**