

Total Health Pottsville Privacy Policy

Current as of: 03/12/2020

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 (eg 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:

- When you make your first appointment our practice staff will collect your personal and demographic information via your registration.
- During the course of providing medical services, we may collect further personal information.
- Information can also be collected through My Health Record, eg via Shared Health Summary, Event Summary.
- We may also collect your personal information when you visit our website, send us an email or telephone us.
- 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, 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 (eg 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 (eg some diseases require mandatory notification)
- during the course of providing medical services, using, My Health Record (eg 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.

How do we store and protect your personal information?

Your personal information is stored securely at our practice by electronic records. Our practice stores all personal information securely. Medical records are stored electronically and are password protected, back up cartridges are stored in a fire resistant secure safe. All staff and contractors sign confidentiality agreements.

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 addressed to the Practice Manager, Total Health Pottsville, 10a Elizabeth St, Pottsville, NSW 2489 or reception@totalhealthpottsville.com.au and our practice will respond within a reasonable time. Our practice considers 30 days a reasonable time frame to provide copies of medical records, fees charged are a family - \$50 plus \$6 exclusive of gst registered post, single - \$25 plus \$6 exclusive of gst registered post.

Our practice will take reasonable steps to correct your personal information where the information is not accurate or up to date. From time to time, we will ask you to verify that your personal information held by our practice is correct and current. You may also request that we correct or update your information, and you should make such requests in writing to Practice Manager, Practice Manager, Total Health Pottsville, 10a Elizabeth St, Pottsville, NSW 2489 or reception@totalhealthpottsville.com.au

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 to Practice Manager, Practice Manager, Total Health Pottsville, 10a Elizabeth St, Pottsville, NSW 2489 or reception@totalhealthpottsville.com.au. We will acknowledge receipt of your letter / email within 7 days and assure you that we are looking into your concern. We will let you know the outcome of our investigation and attempt to resolve this issue within 30 days, if this is not possible, we will keep you informed.

For privacy issues you may also contact the OAIC. Generally, the OAIC will require you to give them time to respond before they will investigate. For further information visit www.oaic.gov.au or call the OAIC on 1300 363 992. You may also write to Health Care Complaints Commission, Locked Bag 18, Strawberry Hills, NSW, 2012. Email: hccc@hccc.nsw.gov.au

Privacy and our website

On our webpage, <https://totalhealthpottsville.com.au> / you will find information about our practice including services and fees. Email: reception@totalhealthpottsville.com.au

Please note this email service is checked infrequently and is not available for making appointments, accessing medical advice, information or results as it's not encrypted and not secure to transmit confidential information.

Policy review statement

Our Privacy policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it is in accordance any changes that may occur. When amended we will inform patients via a notice in the waiting room. A copy of the amended policy will be available on request.