

FAQs – GP Connect Update Record aspect of 2025/26 contract change

Introduction

As part of the [GMS Contract changes for 2025/26](#), a new requirement will come into place in October 2025 providing some external third parties with the ability to send coded and free-text information directly to the GP clinical systems ready for inclusion in the GP record (GP Connect Update Record) and, in some limited circumstance, access coded and free-text information within the record (GP Connect Access Record: Structured / GP Connect Access Record: HTML).

Timelines

There is a requirement in the contract to have the GP Connect Update Record functionality switched on by October 1st 2025. Many of you will have turned this functionality off last summer [when GPC asked](#) you to do this in order to protect the integrity of the GP patient record at that time. There is no need to make any changes prior to Oct 1st.

Q&As

What is GP Connect?

[GP Connect](#) is a functionality built and maintained by the NHS to ensure data can be shared between general practice and other services providing direct care. It achieves this by creating pathways between different digital platforms that enable information to flow both ways (both to and from GP IT systems). The GP Connect Access Record functionality allows the GP record to be viewed by Emergency Department clinicians, outpatient colleagues, care homes and in GP out of hours organisations for example. We have no concerns with colleagues viewing the GP record like this for direct patient care. It also will allow private providers to view the entirety of the GP record when providing direct care to a patient and when that patient has given explicit consent.

What is the 'Update Record' functionality?

The GP Connect Update Record changes have been agreed as part of the GMS contract changes for 2025/26 and once operational from October 1st 2025, will allow pharmacies providing NHS services to submit coded and free-text information directly to the patient's GP system supplier for inclusion into the GP clinical record. Ultimately that information will

be surfaced via the NHS App to patients. GP Connect Update Record sends the community pharmacy consultation record including details of any medicines supplied, directly into general practice workflows for filing, rather than via NHSmail or letter.

What changes do I need to make and when?

If the 'Update Record' functionality is currently enabled in the system that your practice uses then you do not need to do anything. However, for many of you who turned this off last summer as part of collective action then you will need to re-enable it prior to October 1st 2025. As we said above though you do not need to take any action at the moment.

Who will be able to submit information to the GP record?

The ability to submit information into the GP record will be restricted to pharmacies providing NHS services.

Who will be able to access information within the GP record?

A wider range of parties will be able to access a wider range of information residing in the GP record. This could include anyone involved in the direct care of a patient including private sector clinical staff undertaking direct patient care. We will be discussing with NHS England and others around what this means and who exactly can have access and the extent of that access.

Do I need to notify patients about anything at the moment?

There is currently no requirement to notify patients as there is no change to data processing. It is ultimately up to you to decide how, when and whether you want to notify your patients.

Can patients opt out of allowing their data to be made available via GP Connect?

Patients can opt out of allowing their information to be provided to external organisation via GP Connect. The exact method of doing this will depend on which clinical system is in use.

Can patients see who has accessed their record via GP Connect Access Record?

Under the data sharing agreement practices will have agreed "that they are able to provide Data Subjects with an audit trail of access to their records upon request."

(<https://apply.ndsp.gpconnect.nhs.uk/DSA>) We have raised the issue of easy access to audit trails repeatedly with NHS England and will work to ensure functionality is provisioned to allow for easy access to these via the NHS app.

Am I liable for third party information entered into the GP record?

Yes, after accepting (either automatically or by manually reviewing) any incoming information to the GP record you will become liable in just the same way as you are where patients' letters, test results or information are received from colleagues in secondary care. We are in further discussions with NHS England about this as it clearly raises concerns for GPs as data controllers.

Who will be responsible for abnormal or erroneous results entered by a pharmacy?

The GP takes over responsibility at the point at which that data becomes part of the GP record. Abnormal results will need review and a decision will need to be made on any further action. Where there is an error, the party that created the data most hold responsibility – however, in practice, if it will be more difficult to determine once the GP has filed the data. GPC will clarify this ahead of October 1st.

Will information sent from pharmacies be immediately visible in the NHS app under the prospective access to records rules?

Information will only become visible via the NHS app or other patient facing services after it has been formally filed into a patient's record either automatically based on rules established by your practice or after manual review. It is currently the case that information stored within the GP patient record that has not, for whatever reason, been made accessible to a patient may be relayed to a patient when it is accessed by a third party via GP Connect Access Record. Incoming information sent via GP Connect Update Record that relates to third parties, or which passes the serious harm test must be redacted from patient view at the point of filing.