

PRACTICE PRIVACY STATEMENT

Collection, use and disclosure of your information

Information about your medical and family health history is needed to provide accurate and appropriate care. This information is generally collected from you, and otherwise with your consent. However, from time to time we may receive information from others, such as your GP. When this occurs we will, wherever possible, make sure you know we have received this information.

Medical care requires full knowledge of your health information by all members of a medical team. To ensure quality and continuity of your care, health information has to be shared with other health care providers from time to time. Some information about you is also provided to Medicare, and private health funds if relevant, for billing and medical rebate purposes.

The doctor and nurses in this practice are members of various medical and professional bodies including medical defence organizations. There may be occasions when disclosure of patient information is required for medical defence purposes.

There are also circumstances where a medical practitioner is legally bound to disclose personal information. An example of this is the mandatory reporting of communicable diseases.

It is necessary for us to keep your health information after your last attendance at this practice for as long as is required by law or is prudent having regard to administrative requirements.

Access

You have the right to access your health information. You may ask to review the information or ask for a copy of a part or of the whole record. While not required to give reasons for your request, you may be asked to clarify the scope of the request.

There are some circumstances in which access may be denied but in such an event, you will be advised of the reason.

A charge may be payable where the practice incurs costs in providing access. This will depend on the nature of the access.

The material over which the doctor has copyright might be subject to conditions that prevent further copying or publication without the doctor's permission.

If you find that the information held about you is not accurate or complete, you may have that information amended accordingly.

Upon request your health information held by this practice will be made available to another health service provider.

Parents/guardians and children

The right of children to privacy of their health information, based on the professional judgment of the doctor and consistent with the law, might at times restrict access to this information by parents or guardians.

Complaints

It is important to us that your expectations about the way in which we handle your information are the same as ours.

Please do not hesitate to discuss any concerns, questions or complaints about any issues related to the privacy of your personal information with us.