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Consulting privately
Bupa Cromwell Hospital
The Wellington Hospital
Imperial Private Healthcare

NHS Trust
Imperial College
Healthcare NHS Trust

6 **PRIVACY POLICY**

7 **Executive summary**

8 As your treating clinician, and therefore custodian of personal information relating to your
9 medical treatment, I must only use that information in accordance with all applicable law and
10 guidance. This Privacy Notice provides you with a detailed overview of how I will manage
11 your data from the point at which it is gathered and onwards, and how that complies with the
12 law. I will use your personal information for a variety of purposes including, but not limited
13 to, providing you with care and treatment, sharing it with other medical professionals, and
14 research/clinical audit programmes.

15 In addition, you have a number of rights as a 'data subject'. You can, for instance, seek
16 access to your medical information, object to me using your information in particular ways,
17 request rectification of any information which is inaccurate or deletion of information which
18 is no longer required (subject to certain exceptions). This Privacy Notice also sets out your
19 rights, in respect of your personal information, and how to exercise them.

20 For ease of reference, this Privacy Notice is broken into separate sections below with
21 headings which will help you to navigate through the document.

22 **Introduction**

23 This Privacy Notice sets out details of the information that I, as a clinician responsible for
24 your treatment (and including my medical secretaries), may collect from you and how that
25 information may be used. Please take your time to read this Privacy Notice carefully.

26 In this Privacy Notice I use "I" or "mine" or "my" to refer to me as the clinician who is using
27 your personal information.

28 In the event that you have any queries, comments or concerns in respect of the manner in
29 which I have used, or potentially will use, your personal information then you should contact
30 me directly and I would be happy to discuss further.

31 **Your personal data**

32 I am a Data Controller in respect of your personal information which I hold about you. This
33 will mainly relate to your medical treatment and will include data in relation to billing. I
34 must comply with the data protection legislation and relevant guidance when handling your
35 personal information, and so must my medical secretary, including your personal data, any
36 images taken in relation to your treatment, and all applicable professional standards including
37 guidance from the General Medical Council and British Medical Association.

1 I will provide your treatment from major independent hospitals and it may be necessary for
2 these hospitals to process your personal data. I will do so in accordance with the law, the
3 principles of this Privacy Notice and to the extent that it is necessary to do so. This could be
4 where the hospital needs to arrange other healthcare services as part of your treatment, such
5 as nursing or dietitian advice, or support other aspects of the treatment which I provide to
6 you. In that case, the hospital will become a joint Data Controller in respect of your personal
7 information and you will be provided with a copy of their Privacy Notice which sets out how
8 they will manage that information.

9 Your personal information will be handled in accordance with the principles set out within
10 this Privacy Notice. This means that whenever I use your personal data, I will only do so as
11 set out in this Privacy Notice.

12 **What personal information do I collect and use from patients?**

13 I will use ‘special categories of personal information’ about you, such as information relating
14 to your physical health.

15 If you provide personal information to me about other individuals (including medical or
16 financial information) you should inform the individual about the contents of this Privacy
17 Notice. I will also process such information in accordance with this Privacy Notice.

18 In addition, you should note that in the event you amend data which I already hold about you
19 (for instance by amending a pre-populated form) then I will update our systems to reflect the
20 amendments. Our systems will continue to store historical data.

21 **Personal information**

22 As one of my patients, the personal information I hold about you will include the following:
23 a) name; b) contact details, such as postal address, email address and telephone number; c)
24 insurance/billing information; d) any payment data taken; e) emergency contact details,
25 including next of kin f) referral letter and associated details.

26 **Special Categories Personal Information**

27 As one of my patients, I will hold information relating to your medical treatment which is
28 known as a special category of personal data under the law, meaning that it must be handled
29 more sensitively. This may include the following: a) details of your current or former
30 physical or mental health, including information about any healthcare that you have received
31 from other healthcare providers such as GPs, dentists, or NHS and private hospitals, which
32 may include details of clinic and hospital visits as well as medication administered (I will
33 provide further details below on the manner in which I handle such information); b) details of
34 services you have received from me; c) details of your nationality and religion if provided; d)
35 details of any genetic data or biometric data relating to you; e) data concerning your sex life
36 and/or sexual orientation if provided.

37 The confidentiality of your medical information is important to me, and I make every effort
38 to prevent unauthorised access to and use of information relating to your current or former
39 physical and mental health (or indeed any of your personal information more generally). In
40 doing so, I will comply with UK data protection law, including the Data Protection Act 2018,
41 and all applicable medical confidentiality guidelines issued by professional bodies including
42 the General Medical Council.

All uses of your information will be in compliance with UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018.

How do I store your information?

I may collect personal information in practice management software from a number of different sources including, but not limited to: a) GPs; b) dentists; c) NHS and private hospitals; d) mental health providers; e) commissioners of healthcare services; f) other clinicians (including their medical secretaries).

Directly from you

Information may be collected directly from you when: a) you arrange a consultation or treatment with me or the hospital for the provision of healthcare services; b) you use those services; c) you complete enquiry forms; d) you submit a query to me including by email or by social media; e) you correspond with me by letter, email, telephone (incoming and outgoing calls from/to patients may be recorded) or social media.

From other healthcare organisations

My patients will usually receive healthcare from other organisations, and so in order to provide you with the best treatment possible I may have to collect personal information about you from them. These may include: a) medical records from your GP; b) medical records from other clinicians (including their medical secretaries); c) medical records from your dentist; d) medical records from the NHS or any private healthcare organisation.

Medical records include information about your diagnosis, clinic and hospital visits and medicines administered.

From third parties

As detailed in the previous section, it is often necessary to seek information from other healthcare organisations. I may also collect information about you from third parties when: a) you are referred to me for the provision of services including healthcare services; b) I liaise with your current or former employer, health professional or other treatment or benefit provider; c) I liaise with your family; d) I liaise with your insurance policy provider; e) I deal with experts (including medical experts) and other service providers about services you have received or are receiving from me; f) I deal with NHS health service bodies about services you have received or are receiving from us; g) I liaise with credit reference agencies; h) I liaise with debt collection agencies; i) I liaise with Government agencies, including the Ministry of Defence, the Home Office and HMRC.

How will I communicate with you?

I may communicate with you in a range of ways, including by telephone, SMS, email, and / or mail. If I contact you using the telephone number(s) you have provided, and you are not available which results in the call being directed to a voicemail and/or answering service, I may leave a voice message on your voicemail and/or answering service as appropriate, and include sufficient detail to enable you to identify who the call is from, the reason for the call, and how to call me back.

To ensure that I provide you with timely updates and reminders in relation to your healthcare (including basic administration information and appointment information (including reminders)), I may communicate with you by SMS and/or unencrypted email (where you

1 have provided me with your SMS or email address) [in each case where you have expressed a
2 preference in the patient registration form to be contacted by SMS and / or email.]

3 To provide you with your medical information (including test results and other clinical
4 updates) and/or invoicing information, I may communicate with you by email where you
5 have provided me with your email address.

6 Please note that although providing your mobile number and email address and stating a
7 preference to be communicated by a particular method will be taken as an affirmative
8 confirmation that you are happy for us to contact you in that manner, I am not relying on your
9 consent to process your personal data in order to correspond with you about your treatment.
10 As set out further below, processing your personal data for those purposes is justified on the
11 basis that it is necessary to provide you with healthcare service.

12 **What are the purposes for which your information is used?**

13 I may process your information for a number of different purposes. Each time I use your data
14 I must have a legal justification to do so. The particular justification will depend on the
15 purpose of the proposed use of your data. When the information that we process is classed as
16 a “special category of personal information”, I must have a specific additional legal
17 justification in order to use it as proposed.

18 Generally I will rely on the following grounds: a) taking steps at your request so that you can
19 enter into a contract with me to receive healthcare services; b) for the purposes of providing
20 you with healthcare pursuant to a contract between you and me (I will rely on this for
21 activities such as supporting your medical treatment or care and other benefits, supporting
22 your nurse, carer or other healthcare professional and providing other services to you); c) I
23 have an appropriate need to process your personal information as I will rely on this for
24 activities such as quality assurance, maintaining my records, monitoring outcomes and
25 responding to any queries; d) I have a legal or regulatory obligation to use such personal
26 information; e) I need to use such personal information to establish, exercise or defend my
27 legal rights; f) you have provided your consent to my use of your personal information.

28 Note that failure to provide your information further to a contractual requirement with me
29 may mean that I am unable to set you up as a patient or facilitate the provision of your
30 healthcare.

31 I provide further detail on these grounds in the sections below.

32 *Appropriate business needs*

33 One legal ground for processing personal data is where I do so in pursuit of legitimate
34 interests and those interests are not overridden by your privacy rights. Where I refer to use
35 for my appropriate business needs, I am relying on this legal ground.

36 *The right to object to other uses of your personal data*

37 You have a range of rights in respect of your personal data. This includes the right to object
38 to me using your personal information in a particular way (such as sharing that information
39 with third parties), and I must stop using it in that way unless specific exceptions apply. This
40 includes, for example, if it is necessary to defend a legal claim, or it is otherwise necessary
41 for the purposes of your ongoing treatment.

1 You will find details of my legal grounds for each of our processing purposes below. I have
2 set out individually those purposes for which I will use your personal information, and under
3 each one I set out the legal justifications, or grounds, which allow me to do so. I have set out
4 an additional legal ground for special categories of personal information. This is because I
5 have to demonstrate additional legal grounds where using information which relates to a
6 person's healthcare, as it will be the majority of the times I use your personal information.

7 *Purpose 1: To set you up as my patient*

8 *Purpose 2: To provide you with healthcare and related services*

9 *Purpose 3: For account settlement purposes*

10 *Purpose 4: For medical audit/research purposes*

11 *Purpose 5: Communicating with you and resolving any queries or complaints that you might*
12 *have*

13 *Purpose 6: Communicating with any other individual that you ask us to update about your*
14 *care and updating other healthcare professionals about your care*

15 *Purpose 7: Complying with our legal or regulatory obligations, and defending or exercising*
16 *our legal rights*

17 *Purpose 8: Managing my business operations such as maintaining accounting records,*
18 *analysis of financial results, internal audit requirements, receiving professional advice (e.g.*
19 *tax or legal advice)*

20 *Purpose 9: Provide marketing information to you*

21 As is common with most business, I have to carry out necessary checks in order for you to
22 become a patient.

23 Legal ground: Taking the necessary steps so that you can enter into a contract with me for the
24 delivery of healthcare.

25 Additional legal ground for special categories of personal information: The use is necessary
26 for reasons of substantial public interest, and it is also in my legitimate interests to do so.

27 Legal grounds: a) providing you with healthcare and related services; b) fulfilling my
28 contract with you for the delivery of healthcare.

29 Additional legal grounds for special categories of personal information: a) I need to use the
30 data in order to provide healthcare services to you; b) the use is necessary to protect your
31 vital interests where you are physically or legally incapable of giving consent.

32 I will use your personal information in order to ensure that your account and billing is fully
33 accurate and up to date.

34 Legal grounds: a) my providing you healthcare and other related services; b) fulfilling my
35 contract with you for the delivery of healthcare; c) my having an appropriate business need to
36 use your information which does not overly prejudice you; d) your consent.

37 Additional legal grounds for special categories of personal information: a) I need to use the
38 data in order to provide healthcare services to you; b) the use is necessary in order for me to
39 establish, exercise or defend my legal rights; c) your consent.

1 I may process your personal data for the purposes of local clinical audit, such as audit carried
2 out by me or my direct team for the purposes of assessing outcomes for patients and
3 identifying improvements which could be made for the future. I am able to do so on the basis
4 of my legitimate interest and the public interest in statistical and scientific research, and with
5 appropriate safeguards in place. You are, however, entitled to object to my using your
6 personal data for this purpose, and as a result of which I would need to stop doing so. If you
7 would like to raise such an objection then please contact me.

8 I am also asked to share information with UK registries for which ethics committee approval
9 is not required but which form part of the National Clinical Audit programme, hosted by
10 NHS England and who provide a list of National Clinical Audit and Clinical Outcome
11 Review programmes and other quality improvement programmes which we should prioritise
12 for participation. I may do so without your consent provided that the particular audit registry
13 has received statutory approval, or where the information will be provided in a purely
14 anonymous form, otherwise your consent will be needed and either I will seek this from you
15 or the registry themselves will do so. The registry which I regularly share anonymised data
16 with is NHS HQIP.

17 I may also be asked to participate in medical research and share data with ethically approved
18 third party research organisations.

19 I will share your personal data only to the extent that it is necessary to do so in assisting
20 research and as permitted by law. Some research projects will have received statutory
21 approval such that consent may not be required in order to use your personal data. In those
22 circumstances, your personal will be shared on the basis that:

23 Legal grounds: a) I have a legitimate interest in helping with medical research and have put
24 appropriate safeguards in place to protect your privacy; b) the processing is necessary in the
25 public interest for statistical and scientific research purposes.

26 In the event that consent is required then either I will seek this from you, or the research
27 agency will do so.

28 Patients may raise queries or complaints and I take those communications very seriously. It is
29 important that I am able to resolve such matters fully and properly and so I will need to use
30 your personal information in order to do so.

31 Legal grounds: a) providing you with healthcare and other related services; b) having an
32 appropriate business need to use your information which does not overly prejudice you.

33 Additional legal grounds for special categories of personal information: a) the use is
34 necessary for the provision of healthcare or treatment pursuant to a contract with a health
35 professional; b) the use is necessary in order for me to establish, exercise or defend my legal
36 rights.

37 In addition, other healthcare professionals or organisations may need to know about your
38 treatment in order for them to provide you with safe and effective care, and so I may need to
39 share your personal information with them.

40 Legal grounds: a) providing you with healthcare and other related services; b) I have a
41 legitimate interest in ensuring that other healthcare professionals who are routinely involved
42 in your care have a full picture of your treatment.

1 Additional legal ground for special categories of personal information: a) I need to use the
2 data in order to provide healthcare services to you; b) the use is necessary for reasons of
3 substantial public interest under UK law; c) the use is necessary in order for me to establish,
4 exercise or defend my legal rights.

5 I also participate in initiatives to monitor safety and quality, helping to ensure that patients
6 are getting the best possible outcomes from their treatment and care. The Competition and
7 Markets Authority Private Healthcare Market Investigation Order 2014 established the
8 Private Healthcare Information Network (PHIN), as an organisation who will monitor
9 outcomes of patients who receive private treatment. Under Article 21 of that Order, I am
10 required to provide PHIN with information related to your treatment, including your NHS
11 number, the nature of your procedure, whether there were any complications such as
12 infection or the need for admission to a NHS facility and also the feedback you provided as
13 part of any PROMs surveys. PHIN will use your information in order to share it with the
14 NHS, and track whether you have received any follow-up treatment. I will only share this
15 information with PHIN if you have provided your consent for me to do so.

16 The records that I share may contain personal and medical information about patients,
17 including you. PHIN, like me, will apply the highest standards of confidentiality to personal
18 information in accordance with data protection laws and the duty of confidentiality. Any
19 information that is published by PHIN will always be in anonymised statistical form and will
20 not be shared or analysed for any purposes other than those stated. Further information about
21 how PHIN uses information, including its Privacy Notice, is available at www.phin.org.uk.

22 As a provider of healthcare, I am subject to a wide range of legal and regulatory
23 responsibilities which is not possible to list fully here. I may be required by law or by
24 regulators to provide personal information, and in which case I will have a legal
25 responsibility to do so. From time to time, clinicians are unfortunately also the subject of
26 legal actions or complaints. In order to fully investigate and respond to those actions, it is
27 necessary to access your personal information (although only to the extent that it is necessary
28 and relevant to the subject-matter).

29 Legal grounds: The use is necessary in order for us to comply with our legal obligations.

30 Additional legal ground for special categories of personal information: a) I need to use the
31 data in order for others to provide informed healthcare services to you; b) the use is necessary
32 for reasons of the provision of health, social care, treatment, or the management of health or
33 social care systems; c) the use is necessary for establishing, exercising or defending legal
34 claims.

35 I am also required by law to conduct audits of health records, including medical information,
36 for quality assurance purposes. Your personal and medical information will be treated in
37 accordance with guidance issued by the Care Quality Commission (England), Health
38 Inspectorate Wales and Healthcare Improvement Scotland

39 In order to do this, I will not need to use your special categories of personal information and
40 so I have not identified the additional ground to use your information for this purpose.

41 Legal grounds: a) my having an appropriate business need to use your information which
42 does not overly prejudice you.

43 As a provider of private healthcare services, I need to carry out marketing but am mindful of
44 your rights and expectations in that regard. As a result, I will only provide you with

marketing which is relevant to my business and only where you have specifically confirmed your consent to do so.

Legal grounds: a) My having an appropriate business need to use your information which does not overly prejudice you; b) you have provided your consent.

Disclosures to third parties

I may disclose your information to the third parties listed below for the purposes described in this Privacy Notice. This might include: a) a doctor, nurse, carer or any other healthcare professional involved in your treatment; b) other members of support staff involved in the delivery of your care, like receptionists and porters; c) anyone that you ask me to communicate with or provide as an emergency contact, for example your next of kin or carer; d) NHS organisations, including NHS Resolution, NHS England, Department of Health; e) other private sector healthcare providers; f) your GP; g) your dentist; h) other clinicians (including their medical secretaries); i) third parties who assist in the administration of your healthcare, such as insurance companies; j) Private Healthcare Information Network; k) national and other professional research/audit programmes and registries as detailed under purpose 4 above; l) government bodies, including the Ministry of Defence, the Home Office and HMRC; m) regulators, like the Care Quality Commission, Health Inspectorate Wales and Healthcare Improvement Scotland; n) the police and other third parties where reasonably necessary for the prevention or detection of crime; o) insurers; p) debt collection agencies; q) credit referencing agencies; r) third party services providers such as IT suppliers, actuaries, auditors, lawyers, marketing agencies, document management providers and tax advisers; s) selected third parties in connection with any sale, transfer or disposal of our business; t) I may also use your personal information to provide you with information about products or services which may be of interest to you where you have provided your consent for me to do so.

I may communicate with these third parties in a variety of ways including, but not limited to, email, mail, fax and telephone.

How long do I keep personal information for?

I will only keep your personal information for as long as reasonably necessary to fulfil the relevant purposes set out in this Privacy Notice and in order to comply with my legal and regulatory obligations.

If you would like further information regarding the periods for which your personal information will be stored, please contact me.

International data transfers

I (or third parties acting on my behalf) may store or process information that we collect about you in countries outside the European Economic Area ("EEA"). Where I make a transfer of your personal information outside of the EEA I will take the required steps to ensure that your personal information is protected.

I will only do so to the extent that it is relevant and necessary. Under certain circumstances, I may request your consent for such a transfer.

If you would like further information regarding the steps I take to safeguard your personal information, please contact me.

Please note that we have listed above the current common transfers of personal data outside of the EEA but it may be necessary, in future, to transfer such data for other purposes. In the event that it is necessary to do so, we will update this Privacy Notice.

Your rights

Under data protection law, you have certain rights in relation to the personal information that I hold about you. These include rights to know what information I hold about you and how it is used. You may exercise these rights at any time by contacting me.

There will not usually be a charge for handling a request to exercise your rights.

If I cannot comply with your request to exercise your rights we will usually tell you why.

There are some special rules about how these rights apply to health information as set out in UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018.

If you make a large number of requests or it is clear that it is not reasonable for me to comply with a request then we do not have to respond. Alternatively, I can charge for responding.

Your rights include:

The right to access your personal information

You are usually entitled to a copy of the personal information I hold about you and details about how I use it.

Your information will usually be provided to you in writing, unless otherwise requested. If you have made the request electronically (e.g. by email) the information will be provided to you by electronic means where possible.

Please note that in some cases I may not be able to fully comply with your request, for example if your request involves the personal data of another person and it would not be fair to that person to provide it to you.

You are entitled to the following under data protection law. 1. Under Article 15(1) of the GDPR I must usually confirm whether I have personal information about you. If I do hold personal information about you I usually need to explain to you: i. The purposes for which I use your personal information, ii. The types of personal information I hold about you, iii. Who your personal information has been or will be shared with, including in particular organisations based outside the EEA, iv. If your personal information leaves the EU, how I will make sure that it is protected, v. Where possible, the length of time I expect to hold your personal information. If that is not possible, the criteria I use to determine how long I hold your information for vi. If the personal data I hold about you was not provided by you, details of the source of the information vii. Whether I make any decisions about you solely by computer and if so details of how those decision are made and the impact they may have on you viii. Your right to ask me to amend or delete your personal information ix. Your right to ask me to restrict how your personal information is used or to object to my use of your personal information x. Your right to complain to the Information Commissioner's Office

I also need to provide you with a copy of your personal data, provided specific exceptions and exemptions do not apply.

The right to rectification

1 I take reasonable steps to ensure that the information I hold about you is accurate and
2 complete. However, if you do not believe this is the case, you can ask me to update or amend
3 it.

4 *The right to erasure (also known as the right to be forgotten)*

5 I may update this Privacy Notice from time to time to ensure that it remains accurate, and the
6 most up-to-date version can always be obtained by contacting me. In the event that there are
7 any material changes to the manner in which your personal information is to be used then I
8 will provide you with an updated copy of this Privacy Notice.

9 In some circumstances, you have the right to request that I delete the personal information I
10 hold about you. However, there are exceptions to this right and in certain circumstances I can
11 refuse to delete the information in question. In particular, for example, I do not have to
12 comply with your request if it is necessary to keep your information in order to perform tasks
13 which are in the public interest, including public health, or for the purposes of establishing,
14 exercising or defending legal claims.

15 *The right to restriction of processing*

16 In some circumstances, I must pause our use of your personal data if you ask me to do so,
17 although I do not have to comply with all requests to restrict my use of your personal
18 information. In particular, for example, I do not have to comply with your request if it is
19 necessary to keep your information in order to perform tasks which are in the public interest,
20 including public health, or for the purposes of establishing, exercise or defending legal
21 claims.

22 *The right to data portability*

23 In some circumstances, I must transfer personal information that you have provided to you or
24 (if this is technically feasible) another individual/ organisation of your choice. The
25 information must be transferred in an electronic format.

26 You have a right to not be subject to automatic decisions (i.e. decisions that are made about
27 you by computer alone) that have a legal or other significant effect on you.

28 If you have been subject to an automated decision and do not agree with the outcome, you
29 can challenge the decision.

30 *The right to withdraw consent*

31 In some cases, I may need your consent in order for my use of your personal information to
32 comply with data protection legislation. Where we do this, you have the right to withdraw
33 your consent to further use of your personal information. You can do this by contacting me.

34 *The right to complain to the Information Commissioner's Office*

35 You can complain to the Information Commissioner's Office if you are unhappy with the way
36 that I have dealt with a request from you to exercise any of these rights, or if you think I have
37 not complied with our legal obligations.

38 More information can be found on the Information Commissioner's Office website:
39 <https://ico.org.uk/>

40 Making a complaint will not affect any other legal rights or remedies that you have.

1 *National Data Opt-Out Programme*

2 NHS Digital has a national programme pursuant to which all patients will be able to log their
3 preferences as to sharing of their personal information. All health and care organisations will
4 be required to uphold patient choices. You should make me aware directly of any uses of
5 your data to which you object or would object.

6 *Updates to this Privacy Notice*

7 I may update this Privacy Notice from time to time to ensure that it remains accurate. In the
8 event that these changes result in any material difference to the manner in which I process
9 your personal data then I will provide you with an updated copy of the Policy.

10 This Privacy Notice was published on 7 June 2020 and updated on 1 November 2025.

11 Jonathan Bernstein MD FRCS