

Why we gather data

Patient information leaflet



You can find out more about why we, as a health service, collect and gather data in this leaflet.

Why am I asked for equality and diversity information?

Today it seems people want to know all about us, our age, sex, sexuality, race, religion, whether we have a disability and more. When the NHS asks you for this information, you can be assured that this information goes to help make things better for you and others accessing health services.

Public bodies are also required by law to monitor race, disability and sex under the Equality Duty in the Equality Act 2010.

Things can't change without you doing this

When you give information to the NHS, you can be sure that it will only be used to make things better.

Knowing this information helps the NHS to know whether it is:

- Working fairly, to ensure that no one is being discriminated against;
- Treating people with respect;
- Operating honestly;
- Ensuring people can access services when they need them.

Be reassured that there are strict laws to make sure the NHS protect these details and deal with them responsibly.

Data like this helps get health care right

This data will help to influence how we support you as a patient or service user. For example, if you follow a particular religion, there may be ways in which we can help you observe these during any treatment you have.

By knowing what may negatively affect patients or service users, it helps us to take action to make sure we as a health service are being fair, open and non-discriminatory.

What information does the NHS want?

You may be asked for the following information.

- Whether you're a man or a woman;
- Your ethnicity, which is usually the ethnic group, people or culture that you feel most closely reflects your background, or with which your family identify;
- Your nationality;
- Your date of birth;
- Whether you consider yourself to be a disabled person;
- Your sexuality, which is whether you identify as gay/lesbian, heterosexual, or bisexual;
- Whether you now or whether you have ever identified as trans or transgender;
- What religion or belief you follow, if any;
- Whether you are pregnant or on maternity leave; or
- Your marriage and civil partnership status.

Can you see why we need to know?

We're not being nosy - the information helps make health care be attributable to you personally and make sure as a health service we are acting fairly and in accordance with the law.

The details you give are protected by strict laws

It's natural to feel protective of your personal information. This data will be collated in an anonymous way, and will help to influence how you are treated in our care.

We will always make sure that we strive to consider your individual needs as a patient, by providing us with this information can make service design more in line with what you need.

Your right to access information

When we receive a request from you in writing, we must normally give you access to everything we hold about you. We may not give you confidential information about other people or information that a healthcare professional considers likely to cause serious harm to the physical or mental health of you or someone else.

We will provide other ways for you to apply for your records if you cannot do so in writing.

Further information

Further information regarding the use of your data is available on our website:

🌐 www.kernowccg.nhs/get-info/information-governance



To get this information in another format call:

📞 **01726 627800**

Contact NHS Kernow:

📞 01726 627800

✉ kccg.contactus@nhs.net

🌐 www.kernowccg.nhs.uk

