

# Image Sharing

## Patient Information Leaflet

This leaflet aims to explain what image sharing is,  
and why this service may be important to you.

## What is image sharing?

Images like X-rays, CT scans and MRIs are not routinely shared across NHS hospitals. This means that when you receive care at different hospitals, your doctors at those hospitals may not have knowledge about or access to, imaging that has already been performed. Depending on your care needs, access to your imaging (CT scans, X-rays etc) from another hospital may be required. This will be because your doctors will want to ensure that they have as much relevant information about you and your condition as possible, to help them decide how best to plan your treatment.

## When would my imaging information be shared?

Your images and reports will only be shared with an NHS hospital trust when there is a record to show that clinical staff have started delivering part of your care.

## What are the benefits of image sharing to me?

The ability to share images with other hospitals allows doctors to make better informed decisions about your care. It also reduces your risk of unnecessary re-imaging and associated radiation exposure from X-rays or CT scans. Image sharing may improve your patient care in the following ways.

**Outpatient appointments:** Your imaging history and reports taken at other hospitals may be useful for the doctor that is going to review you. If this is the case, your imaging history and reports could be retrieved before you are due to have your outpatient appointment.

**Review at Multidisciplinary Team meetings:** There are times when the care you receive, or when decisions about the care you should receive, needs the expertise of doctors, nurses and

other healthcare professionals who you may not come into direct contact with. Examples of this are where patients have cancer, rare diseases or other uncommon medical conditions. Your imaging history and reports may be required so that a multidisciplinary team can review these to work out how best to treat you.

In an emergency: For emergency care, doctors at one hospital can make an emergency referral and share your images with the specialist team at another hospital to seek their advice on how best to treat you or as part of a transfer of your care.

## What steps will be taken to protect my information?

Your information is only shared with trusts which are delivering part of your care. All images and reports which are shared will be encrypted before they are transferred electronically using secure NHS IT networks.

## What if I don't want my information shared by RISP?

If you do not wish for your information to be available for sharing by RISP, you have the right to opt out.

Visit <http://regional-image-sharing-platform.org.uk/> or pick up a leaflet at your local trust's Imaging Department.

## Where can I find out more information or give feedback?

Further information on how your information will be processed (managed, used etc.) can be found by visiting your treating trust's website and viewing the Fair Processing (Privacy) Notice.

You can find out more about West Midland Regional Image Sharing Platform by visiting the website:

<http://regional-image-sharing-platform.org.uk/>

You can also find out more about the Image Exchange Portal by visiting the website:

<https://sectra.com/medical/product/sectra-image-exchange-portal/>

If you have any further questions, concerns or would like to provide feedback, please email: **wm.risp@nhs.net**

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