

Key benefits

The summary care record (SCR) is an electronic summary of key health information. It will hold limited essential information derived initially from the patient's GP record, this will include medication, adverse reactions and allergies and a patient's significant medical history.

BENEFITS FOR PATIENTS

Improved information flow between patient and staff

The SCR will contain details of key health information including medications and allergies, providing a medical history at a glance.

Better treatment in emergencies and out of hours

The SCR will be available to health-care staff treating patients anywhere in England. This will be particularly useful in emergencies or when patients need treatment out-of-hours or when they are away from home.

Faster access

Patients care will no longer be delayed by the sending of records from one to another, and patients will not be required to repeat information to different health-care staff.

Improvements to your care

The reliance on paper records, and their transference from one location to another can be slow, and sometimes information can be lost along the way. One central, electronically held SCR for each patient will reduce this possibility.

Authorised health-care staff will be able to see the parts of the record that are relevant to them, improving the quality of treatment and care.

Personal access to your health record

Patients will be able to access their own SCR through the secure website HealthSpace, giving them a greater say in, and more control over, their health and well being.

More tailored care

Information about how a patient would like to be treated – for example, if they need access to information in Braille, or need wheelchair access – can be added to the record through HealthSpace. This will help cater for their individual needs.

Confidentiality and security of your record

Information in the SCR is safe and secure and is protected by the strongest security measures available for handling data.

BENEFITS FOR NHS STAFF

Quicker access to information The record will contain details of a patient's most important medical information including medications, allergies and adverse reactions, providing a medical history at a glance.

Patient SCRs will be available 24 hours a day. This is particularly useful to health-care staff dealing with emergencies and caring for patients in out-of-hours settings.

Ease of communication

The record will show who has been providing care for a patient and at which stage, easing communication between health-care staff.

The reduction of reliance on the patient to explain their history will increase the quality of care in cases where the patient has trouble explaining their condition.

Further information

Your local health organisation can provide further details about local plans for SCRs in your area, including system training and governance advice.

More information for NHS staff about SCRs can be found at www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/systemsandservices/scr.