

# EAST ADELAIDE HEALTHCARE PRIVACY POLICY as per The Australian Privacy Principles pursuant to the Privacy Act 1988

Current as of: September 2018

## Introduction

This privacy policy is to provide information to you, our patient, on how your personal information (which includes your health information) is collected and used within our practice, and the circumstances in which we may share it with third parties.

## Why and when your consent is necessary

When you register as a patient of our practice, you provide consent for our GPs and practice staff to access and use your personal information so they can provide you with the best possible healthcare. Only staff who need to see your personal information will have access to it. If we need to use your information for anything else, we will seek additional consent from you to do this.

Why do we collect, use, hold and share your personal information?

Our practice will need to collect your personal information to provide healthcare services to you. Our main purpose for collecting, using, holding and sharing your personal information is to manage your health. We also use it for directly related business activities, such as financial claims and payments, practice audits and accreditation, and business processes (eg staff training).

## What personal information do we collect?

The information we will collect about you includes:

- names, date of birth, addresses, contact details
- medical information including medical history, medications, allergies, adverse events, immunisations, social history, family history and risk factors
- Medicare number (where available) for identification and claiming purposes
- healthcare identifiers
- health fund details.

## Dealing with us anonymously

You have the right to deal with us anonymously or under a pseudonym unless it is impracticable for us to do so or unless we are required or authorised by law to only deal with identified individuals.

## How do we collect your personal information?

Our practice will collect your personal information:

1. When you make your first appointment our practice staff will collect your personal and demographic information via your registration.
2. During the course of providing medical services, we may collect further personal information.  
Information can also be collected through Electronic Transfer of Prescriptions (eTP), MyHealth Record/PCEHR system, (eg via Shared Health Summary, Event Summary)
3. We may also collect your personal information when you visit our website, telephone us or make an online appointment.
4. In some circumstances personal information may also be collected from other sources. Often this is because it is not practical or reasonable to collect it from you directly. This may include information from:

- your guardian or responsible person
- other involved healthcare providers, such as specialists, allied health professionals, hospitals, community health services and pathology and diagnostic imaging services
- your health fund, Medicare, or the Department of Veteran's Affairs (as necessary).

## Who do we share your personal information with?

We sometimes share your personal information:

- with third parties who work with our practice for business purposes, such as accreditation agencies or information technology providers – these third parties are required to comply with APPs and this policy
- with other healthcare providers
- when it is required or authorised by law (eg court subpoenas)
- when it is necessary to lessen or prevent a serious threat to a patient's life, health or safety or public health or safety, or it is impractical to obtain the patient's consent
- to assist in locating a missing person
- to establish, exercise or defend an equitable claim
- for the purpose of confidential dispute resolution process
- when there is a statutory requirement to share certain personal information (eg some diseases require mandatory notification)
- during the course of providing medical services, through Electronic Transfer of Prescriptions (eTP), MyHealth Record/PCEHR system (eg via Shared Health Summary, Event Summary).

Only people that need to access your information will be able to do so. Other than in the course of providing medical services or as otherwise described in this policy, our practice will not share personal information with any third party without your consent.

We will not share your personal information with anyone outside Australia (unless under exceptional circumstances that are permitted by law) without your consent.

## How do we store and protect your personal information?

Your personal information may be stored at our practice in various forms. These include electronic records, archived paper files, visual radiology films, photos and videos.

Our practice stores all personal information securely.

Our practice has a system in place to protect the privacy, security, quality and integrity of the data held electronically. Our practice ensures that our practice computers and servers comply with the RACGP computer security checklists.

All medical practitioners and staff within the practice are required to sign a privacy and confidentiality agreement.

## How can you access and correct your personal information at our practice?

You have the right to request access to, and correction of, your personal information.

Our practice acknowledges patients may request access to their medical records. We require you to put this request in writing by completing the Patient Access Request form available at reception and our practice will respond within a reasonable time and once the treating doctor has been able to review your request. Your treating doctor may need to further discuss the request with you. The fees associated with processing such requests are not claimable from Medicare. The practice staff will explain to you any fees that may be charged in complying with your request.

Our practice will take reasonable steps to correct your personal information where the information is not accurate or up-to-date. From time-to-time, we will ask you to verify your personal information held by our practice is correct and up-to-date. You may also request that we correct or update your information, and you should make such requests in writing by requesting an Update Patient Information form at the reception desk.

## How can you lodge a privacy related complaint, and how will the complaint be handled at our practice?

We take complaints and concerns regarding privacy seriously. You should express any privacy concerns you may have in writing. We will then attempt to resolve it in accordance with our resolution procedure.

Please address any such correspondence to the Practice Manager Mrs. Gina Bilibio on phone number: 8362 2233 or email [pmanager@eahc.com.au](mailto:pmanager@eahc.com.au).

You may also contact the OAIC.

Generally, the OAIC will require you to give them time to respond, before they will investigate. For further information visit [www.oaic.gov.au](http://www.oaic.gov.au) or call the OAIC on 1300 336 002.

You may also contact the Health & Community Services Complaints Commissioner on: 8226 8666

## Privacy and our website

Our Website [www.eahc.com.au](http://www.eahc.com.au) contains Terms and Conditions of Use. Please read them carefully.

## Policy review statement

The East Adelaide Healthcare Privacy Policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure it is in accordance with any changes that may occur. Patients will be advised via our website and hard copies of our Privacy Policy will be available at all times in the reception area and waiting rooms at both practice locations.

## Practice Contact Details:

Marden Surgery: 337 Payneham Road Marden SA 5070 Ph. 08 8362 2233

Newton Surgery: 147 Montacute Road Newton SA 5074 Ph. 08 8337 4580 or 8360 9777