

Purpose

This pamphlet explains how personal information about you and your health is recorded and managed in our practice. We also have a written privacy policy describing how we manage personal information. You can receive a copy of our policy free of charge upon request or access it via our practice website.

Personal information

The 'personal information' we collect includes your name, date of birth, address/es, contact details, Medicare number, healthcare identifiers and health fund details. Medical information may include medical history and any care you may need. GPs need information about your past and present health in order to provide you with high-quality care.

Our practice follows the guidelines of the RACGP's Privacy and managing health information in general practice resource. The resource incorporates federal and state privacy legislation, and the Australian Privacy Principles, which requires that your personal information is kept private and secure.

Your medical records

This practice takes steps to ensure that your medical records:

- are accurate, complete, well-organised and legible
- are up-to-date
- contain enough information to allow another GP to care for you
- contain a summary of your care
- can be used to remind you, with your permission, to return for follow up, check-ups and reviews.

If you are uncertain why information is being requested, please ask your GP or the practice staff.

If you wish to remain anonymous while accessing healthcare services, please talk to the practice staff.

Use of AI Scribe Technology

At present, our practice does not use an AI scribe tool. If this changes in the future, you will be informed before your consultation and will always have the right to decline. No audio recording of a consultation will occur without your explicit consent.

Providing your information to other GPs

In this practice, it is normal for all GPs to have access to your medical records. If you have any concerns about this please discuss them with your GP or practice staff.

It is important that other people involved in your care, such as medical specialists and other healthcare professionals, are informed of the relevant parts of your medical history, so they can provide the best care for you. Your GP will let you know when this is necessary.

Providing your information to others

GPs respect your right to decide how your personal information is used or shared. For example, this may be sharing your health information with specialist doctors. Personal information that identifies you will only be sent to other people with your consent, unless there are exceptional circumstances. Gaining your consent is the guiding principle used by this practice in using and sharing your information.

Our practice will not share your personal health information with anyone else or another organisation unless:

- you have consented to this sharing, or
- they are legally obliged to disclose the information, in which case your GP will first discuss with you the information that she or he is legally obliged to disclose, or
- the information is necessary for you to obtain Medicare payments or other health insurance rebates, or
- there is an overriding public health and safety interest in the release of the information.

In the above cases, only information necessary to meet the requirements will be provided. Your health information will not ordinarily be sent overseas unless:

- you are informed and provide consent for this to occur, and
- the overseas country receiving the information has privacy laws that are very similar to the Australian Privacy Principles.

My Health Record

Our practice participates in the My Health Record system, which allows you and your healthcare providers to access your health information securely online. We may upload information including shared health summaries, event summaries and prescription information.

Important change from 1 July 2026: From this date, pathology and diagnostic imaging providers will automatically upload your results to your My Health Record. This means results may appear before your GP has had the opportunity to contact you directly. If you have concerns about a result, please call us. You retain full control over your My Health Record at any time. You can opt out, or request specific information not be uploaded, by speaking with our reception staff or visiting www.myhealthrecord.gov.au

Using health information for quality improvement and research

This practice may use patient health information to assist in improving the quality of care we give to all our patients, by reviewing the treatments used in the practice. Your information held by the practice may be used in research projects to improve healthcare in the community; however, this information will not include data that can identify you.

The information used for research, including the publication of research results, will not be in a form that would allow you to be identified, unless the research serves an important public interest. In such cases, identifiable medical records can be used for medical research without your consent under guidelines issued by the Australian Government. Before providing such identified information, your GP will discuss with you the information that she or he is obliged to disclose.

Security of information in the practice

Australian privacy legislation — including the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth) and the Australian Privacy Principles — applies to all personal health information recorded in electronic and paper records. The Privacy and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024, now in effect, has strengthened these obligations and introduced new enforcement powers. All records must be kept secure to protect against unauthorised access. This practice complies with these requirements to protect your information.

Access to your health information

You may ask practice staff about any aspect of your healthcare, including information contained in your record. You can request access to your medical record and any other information the practice records about you.

If you request access to your medical record, your GP will need to consider if there may be a risk of physical or mental harm to you or any other person that may result from disclosure of your health information. Your GP may need to remove any information that will affect the privacy of other individuals.

Sharing information is important for good communication between you and practice staff. Your GP is able to provide a full explanation of the health summary or medical record you are provided access to.

Depending on what is involved, you may be asked to contribute to the cost of providing the information.

Direct marketing

This practice does not engage in direct marketing.

Resolving concerns regarding the privacy of your health information

If you have any concerns regarding the privacy of your personal health information or the accuracy of the information held by the practice, you should discuss these with practice staff. Inaccurate information can be corrected or your concerns noted in your record. For legal reasons, the original notes will be retained.

You may also make your complaint in writing to the Practice Manager at admin@diabeticgp.com.au or PO Box 272, Belgian Gardens QLD 4810. We will respond within 30 days

Contacts

If you have questions or a complaint about the privacy of your personal information, please ask to speak to the privacy contact officer at the practice.

Further information on privacy legislation is available from:

Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC)	1300 363 992 · www.oaic.gov.au
Office of the Health Ombudsman, Queensland	133 646 · www.oho.qld.gov.au
Office of the Information Commissioner Queensland	07 3234 7373 · www.oic.qld.gov.au

Practice contact details –
The Family & The Diabetic GP Clinic
Suite 14 The Hyde Park Centre
36-48 Kings Road Hyde Park Townsville Qld 4812
PO BOX 272 Belgian Gardens 4810
Ph: (07) 4724 0700 Fax: (07) 4724 5549
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*Keeping your
personal
information
private in our
practice*

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