

GOOD STREET MEDICAL CENTRE PRIVACY POLICY

Current as of: 1st June 2023

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to outline how Good Street Medical Centre complies with its confidentiality and privacy obligations. As an organisation, our priority is and always will be the health and wellbeing of our patients. We are committed to protecting the privacy of patient information and to handling your personal information in a responsible manner in accordance with the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth), the Privacy Amendment (Enhancing Privacy Protection) Act 2012, the Australian Privacy Principles and relevant State and Territory privacy legislation (referred to as privacy legislation).

Why and when your consent is necessary?

Collection

When you register as a patient at Good Street Medical Centre, you provide consent for our GPs, medical and non-medical staff. We collect information that is necessary and relevant to provide you with medical care, treatment, and manage our medical practice.

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. All staffs are required to sign a confidentiality agreement.

This information may be stored on our computer medical records system and/or in hand written medical records. Wherever practicable we will only collect information from you personally. However, we may also need to collect information from other sources such as treating specialists, radiologists, pathologists, hospitals and other health care providers. We also use it for directly related business activities, such as financial claims and payments, practice audits and accreditation, and business processes (e.g. staff training).

We collect information in various ways, such as over the phone or in writing, in person at GSMC or over the internet if you transact with us online.

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

What personal information do we collect?

The information we collect about you, will include:

- Your full name, date of birth, gender, addresses, contact details
- Medical information including medical history, medications, allergies, ethnicity, occupation, adverse events, immunisations, social history, family history and risk factors
- Medicare number (where available) for identification and claiming purposes
- Healthcare identifiers
- Health fund details.
- Next of Kin/Emergency Contact

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 authorized by law to only deal with identified individuals.

How do we collect your personal information?

Good Street Medical Centre may collect your personal information in several different ways.

1. When you make your first appointment our practice staff will collect your personal and demographic information via your registration in writing.
2. During the course of providing medical services, we may collect further personal information.
3. We may also collect your personal information when you visit our website, send us an email or SMS, telephone us, make an online appointment or communicate with us using social media.
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, pathology and diagnostic imaging services
 - Your Health Fund, Medicare, or the Department of Veterans' Affairs (as necessary).

When, why and with whom do we share your personal information?

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
- Other healthcare providers
- When it is required or authorised by law (e.g. 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
- The purpose of confidential dispute resolution process
- When there is a statutory requirement to share certain personal information (e.g. some diseases require mandatory notification)
- During the course of providing medical services, through eTP, My Health Record (e.g. via Shared Health Summary, Event Summary).

Only people who 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.

Our practice will not use your personal information for marketing any of our goods or services directly to you without your express consent. If you do consent, you may opt out of direct marketing at any time by notifying our practice in writing.

How do we store and protect your personal information?

Your personal information may be stored at our practice in various forms. Good Street Medical Centre use the following methods to store information. Paper records, electronic records, visual records (x-rays, CT scans, videos and photos and audio recordings)

Good Street Medical Centre stores all personal information securely. Your personal records are held in electronic format, in protected information systems, and hard copy format in a secure environment. All staff sign a confidentiality agreement and use passwords for entering into systems, as security.

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. Good Street Medical Centre will ask you to sign a consent form allowing us to transfer any medical records. Once the consent form is received by the practice, we will endeavor to copy your records within a month. We will advise the patient if there is a cost involved for transferring the information.

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 that your personal information held by our practice is correct and current. You may also request that we correct or update your information, and you should make such requests in writing to reception at info@goodstreetmedicalcentre.com.au, or inform reception staff when you come for the next appointment.

How can you lodge a privacy-related complaint, and how will the complaint be handled at the 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.

All complaints can be sent via email to info@goodstreetmedicalcentre.com.au or in writing to Good Street Medical Centre, Suite 1-3, 2 Good Street Westmead NSW, 2145. You can also contact the Practice Manager, Asha Kandiban on 9633 7033. We will endeavor to answer your query within 30 days of submission.

You may also contact the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner. Generally, the OAIC will require you to give them time to respond before they will investigate.

For further information visit www.oaic.gov.au or call the OAIC on 1300 363 992.

Privacy and our website

Good Street Medical Centre website contains links to other sites. Please be aware that Good Street Medical Centre is not responsible for the privacy practices of any linked sites. We encourage users who leave our site to read the privacy statements of each and every linked website that they choose to visit. All links to external sites is provided for your convenience. The information, products and advertisements contained in the linked sites are neither

approved or endorsed by Good Street Medical Centre, and Good Street Medical Centre is not responsible for such information, products or advertisements.

- Your privacy is important to us and we want you to feel comfortable visiting our website.
- Any personal information that patients have given to us, including email addresses, will be used only in the following ways:
- Personal data will be securely stored.
- We will not provide your personal data to any third party without your permission.
- We do not automatically collect your personal email address, when you visit our website. It is provided on the registration form or by the patient.
- If we join with a third party to provide services and you sign up for those services, we will share your name and other contact details, necessary with our partner to provide those services to you.
- If you view specific pages or download information from specific pages on our website, we will track and add the number of your visits to the aggregate number of visits by all users in order to better design our website.
- We may share aggregate demographic information with our affiliates. This is not linked to any personal information that can identify you or any other visitor to our website.

Policy review statement

Good Street Medical Centre has the right to change the Privacy Policy at any time. If there are updates to Good Street Medical Centre Privacy policy, we will address the changes promptly and update the revision date of this document.

Disclaimer

The Privacy policy template for general practices is intended for use as a guide of a general nature only and may or may not be relevant to particular practices or circumstances. The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) has used its best endeavors to ensure the template is adapted for general practice to address current and anticipated future privacy requirements. Persons adopting or implementing its procedures or recommendations should exercise their own independent skill or judgement, or seek appropriate professional advice. While the template is directed to general practice, it does not ensure compliance with any privacy laws, and cannot of itself guarantee discharge of the duty of care owed to patients. Accordingly, the RACGP disclaims all liability (including negligence) to any users of the information contained in this template for any loss or damage (consequential or otherwise), cost or expense incurred or arising by reason of reliance on the template in any manner.