Ten things you might want to know about the Dorset Care Record





Once fully operational, the Dorset Care Record (DCR) will keep your health and social care details in one place. This will include your care details and needs, a list of your medical conditions and allergies and medications, test results, any referrals, clinic letters and discharge information and a history of your treatment.



The DCR is a partnership involving all the primary hospitals in the county (Dorset County Hospital, Poole Hospital and Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals), GP surgeries (NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group), Dorset HealthCare, the three local authorities working with adult and children's services (Dorset County Council, Borough of Poole and Bournemouth Borough Council) and the South West Ambulance Service Trust.



Part of the £7.8m five year contract has come from the NHS England Integrated Digital Care Fund with additional funding coming from partner organisations. Health and social care organisations have been calling for the establishment of an electronic record for a number of years and there is national guidance that states the NHS should have electronic records by 2020.



At present, demographic data from the three primary hospitals and GP records are available on the DCR system. Alerts, allergies, hospital admission and discharge information and medical appointments and attendances from Dorset County Hospital are coming soon.



It is different from the Summary Care Record which you may have signed up to in GP surgeries. The DCR will bring together information in a read only format from hospitals, GPs, community teams and local councils, enabling details of your medical/care history and needs to be summarised in the same place.



Information in the DCR comes directly from the acute hospitals in real time as do GP records Other information where possible will be in real time but if not, at the least, will be updated overnight.



The DCR system is being provided by global healthcare company Orion Health, which looks after other care records across the UK. There are a number of safeguards in place to ensure security is tight. These include access controls, password, account and privacy policies, password encryption, session management and activity timeout, audit logs, patient privacy and levels of consent and controlled access limited to approved IP addresses.



Your medical records will be confidential. They will only be looked at by professionals directly involved in your care or those supporting the delivery of that care (eg practice and hospital administrative staff). Your details will be kept safe and won't be made public, will not be passed on to a third party or used for advertising or sold.



Although you won't be able see information from Yeovil, Salisbury and Southampton hospitals immediately, there are plans in the future to include them as we know many Dorset residents go to other large hospitals to receive treatment.



One of the key aims of the DCR is, in the longer term, to be able to offer all Dorset residents access to their own record, through a people portal.