

Changing My Gender Identification and My GP Record:

What This Means



As a practice, we welcome our patients speaking to us about any concerns or decisions made regarding their gender identification. Following recent national guidance, we have updated our processes in order to best support our patients. One aspect is for us to consider how we best manage patients' records. We value individual patients' own requests and ideas for how to do this so that important decisions can be made together.

As standard practice, any request to change your name, gender marker or title on your medical record will be accepted. We require no Gender Recognition Certificate or updated birth certificate to proceed. All you need to do is to let us know and we will then amend your GP record appropriately.

However, should you so wish, a new NHS number and patient record can be created. This step allows us as an organization, and the NHS as a whole, to formally recognize your new identity. Of note, in addition, it is currently not possible in our clinical system to have a perceived 'mismatch' between specifically title and gender marker. In such instances of 'mismatch', we would also need to request a new NHS number and GP record. However, it is not mandatory to have a title specified. A change in name with or without change in gender marker alone would not require this step at all.

In instances where a new GP record is created, all previous medical information contained within your existing GP record is transferred to the new one attached to your new NHS number. Your previous NHS number and any clinical information relating to or reference to your former gender identity is redacted. If necessary, due to volume and/or complexity, this information will be completely removed and retained separately from your new electronic record as hard copy notes available for future reference, if ever required.

It is important to consider that this process has implications in terms of the completeness of the narrative of your medical history. There are also implications with regards national screening programmes such as those for cervical and breast cancer and aortic aneurysm screening. Options regarding these will be discussed with you and individual arrangements can be made together.

Should you wish in the future to revert back to your original gender identity and to have another new record, then a third NHS number would be requested and we would re-start the process detailed above.

All amendments to your GP records can be adapted and modified in accordance with your own wishes. If you have any questions or would like to discuss any part of this further, please do not hesitate to contact us by telephone on 01748 876090 or by email at harewood1@nhs.net.