

## 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 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.

## 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 (staff training)

## 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

## 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 for identification and claiming purposes
- Healthcare identifiers
- Health fund details

## How do we collect your personal information?

Our practice will collect your personal information:

- When you make your first appointment our practice will collect your personal and demographic information via your registration.
- During the course of providing medical services, we may collect further personal information.
- We may also collect your personal information when you visit our website, send us an email or communicate with us using social media.
- 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

## Who do we share your personal information with?

We sometimes share your personal information:

- With third parties who work at our practice for business purposes, such as accreditation agencies or information technology providers.
- 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, 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 circumstance 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. Our practice stores all personal information securely (both for hardcopy and electronic records).

### **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 and our practice will respond with 30 days. There will be an administration charge to access the records.

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 to our Practice Manager.

### **Notifiable Data Breaches**

The Renmark Medical Clinic is required to notify the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner about eligible data breaches. A data response team has been established to assess, take remedial action and report where required a suspected breach.

### **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 to our Practice Manager.

We will then attempt to resolve it in accordance with our resolution procedure.

You may also contact the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC). Generally the OAIC will require you to have contacted the Renmark Medical Clinic and given us time to respond, before they will investigate.

For further information visit:

[www.oaic.gov.au](http://www.oaic.gov.au)

or call

OAIC on 1300 363 992

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## **PRIVACY POLICY**

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