

COMPASSION

IN DYING

SUPPORTING YOUR CHOICES AT THE END OF LIFE

FACTSHEET - Summary Care Records

In 2010 you may have got a letter from your doctor about Summary Care Records. This is a quick guide - contact Compassion in Dying if you would like more information.

INFORMATION LINE: **0800 999 2434**

What are Summary Care Records?

Your Summary Care Record is an electronic record of important information about your health. For example:

- Allergies
- Which medications you are taking

Doctors use your Summary Care Record to keep your medical information up-to-date. This makes it easier for other doctors to know how to treat you if you are taken into hospital while you are away from home or during the night.

At the moment Summary Care Records are only in use in England.

Can I record my Advance Decision on my Summary Care Record?

Yes. Summary Care Records can tell doctors that you have an Advance Decision and where it is kept. Speak to your doctor about recording your Advance Decision on your Summary Care Record.

Who can see my Summary Care Record?

The only people with the authority to look at your Summary Care Record are the doctors treating you. They should always ask your permission before looking at it unless it is an emergency. There are strict rules in place to protect your information.

Can I say no?

You should tell your doctor if you want to opt out of having a Summary Care Record, otherwise it will be set up automatically. Once you have a Summary Care record it cannot be deleted.

Can I add to it?

You cannot update your Summary Care Record yourself. Speak to your doctor about any information you want to add.

You can use a website called HealthSpace to record non-clinical information about yourself that you think it is important for doctors to know. This could include:

- Religious belief
- Dietary requirements

Doctors can look at your HealthSpace at the same time as your Summary Care record.

HealthSpace

Web: www.healthspace.nhs.uk

How can we help?

- We can send you a free **Advance Decision** form and help you to fill it in
- Call our free **Information Line** if you have questions about Summary Care Records

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