



NEWBRIDGE SURGERY

Dedicated, Quality Care

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2025



Sharing your Medical Record through life

You have a legal right to access the personal information held about you by health and care organisations. For proxy access to children's records we follow the Royal College of General Practitioners guidance. Secure access can be gained through the **NHS App**.

Age 0-11

Adults with parental responsibility for a child under the age of 11 will be able to access their child's medical record and consent to care and treatment. Children under the age of 11 are presumed not to have capacity to make decisions themselves.

Age 11-16

Children *may* have the capacity to make decisions, including who has access to their medical record. If a parent asks to have access to their child's medical record we will carry out a 'Gillick Competence test' to assess if the child is mature enough to decide. If they are not Gillick Competent the parent can continue to have access for another year until the test is repeated (or if the child is deemed to be competent beforehand and asks for access to stop). If a child is deemed Gillick Competent they can choose if their parent accesses their record or not.

Age 16+

All children are presumed to be competent over the age of 16 and parental access will cease unless the child completes a consent to discuss care form (see more information below).

All patients over 16 may have someone in their life who they wish to speak to the surgery on their behalf. This may be a parent, partner or child or trusted friend.

Consent to discuss care

The surgery will never discuss a patient's medical record with anyone unless we have their consent to do so*. There is a form that can be completed (available on our website or through reception). The patient can stipulate if there are no restrictions to disclosure or if we can discuss specific aspects only. The patient can only complete this form when they have capacity to do so i.e. not if they are a child under 16 that is not Gillick competent or for example an adult with dementia or learning disabilities which may mean they are unable to make an informed decision. As patients get older they may wish to consider putting consent in place when planning for the future.

Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA)

There are two types of LPA, health and welfare and finance. A finance LPA will not give you the right to make decisions on behalf of someone else regarding their health. A LPA only becomes active when a person loses mental capacity to make decisions for themselves. We will ask for a copy of the LPA to add to your medical record.

***When we might disclose information**

We will disclose information regarding health regularly without consent i.e. when we refer to other services. There are times when we may need to disclose information, which you may not consent to. This will be done following strict criteria based on the requirement of law i.e. with a court order or to prevent serious harm to the individual or public.

More information regarding information sharing can be seen on our website:

<https://newbridgesurgerybath.nhs.uk/surgery-policies/sharing-your-information-with-others>



As the colder months approach ensure you are aware of the help and support available to you.

More information can be found on our website in the Patient care and support section, then go to What support do I need?

Advice on dealing with a cold or damp home can be sought from B&NES Council, B&NES Energy at Home Service and Citizens Advice.

Protect yourself from winter viruses with the flu, covid and RSV vaccines if eligible.

Pause to Contacting us Online

If we pause this service it is to ensure we operate safely. We will continue to offer care, support and appointments where required but ask that you telephone us instead on 01225 425807 for urgent matters. Thank you

Sign up to the NHS App



Last quarter 67.5% of Newbridge patients (13+) had signed up to receive the benefit,
we are now at 68.2%

Get:

- Secure access to your medical record
- Manage prescriptions
- Book or cancel appointments
- NHS 111 symptom checker
- Proxy access for children



Vaccines are the most effective way to prevent many infectious diseases.

Be aware of anti-vaccine stories which are often spread online through social media and offline.

Always get your vaccine and health information from trusted sources, such as the NHS or World Health Organisation (WHO). **However, if you want more specific advice or reassurance regarding yourself or child, please make an appointment with one of our Practice Nurses.**

The vaccine information on social media may not be based on scientific evidence and could put you or your child at risk of serious illness.

- Vaccines do:
- ✓ help to protect you/your child from many serious and potentially deadly diseases
 - ✓ protect other people in your family and community, especially those unable to be vaccinated i.e. very young babies
 - ✓ undergo vigorous safety testing before being introduced and constantly monitored
 - ✓ sometimes cause mild side effects that will not last long
 - ✓ reduce or even get rid of some diseases – especially if enough people are vaccinated

Vaccines **do not**:

- ✗ do not overload or weaken the immune system – it is safe to give children and adults several vaccines at a time
- ✗ do not contain mercury (thiomersal)
- ✗ do not cause autism – studies have found no evidence of a link between the MMR vaccine and autism

For more information go to <https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/why-vaccination-is-important-and-the-safest-way-to-protect-yourself/> or speak to our Practice Nurse