Eastside Health
ON MARY

# Eastside Health on Mary Privacy Policy

Current as of: 01/08/2026

The objective of this document is to provide you, our patient, with clear information on how your personal information is collected and used within the practice. Occasionally we also need to share your personal information to involve others in your healthcare and this policy outlines when, how, and why we share your information.

## 1. Who can I contact about this policy?

For enquiries concerning this policy, you can contact**:**

**Practice Manager**

**Eastside Health on Mary**

**104 Mary Street**

**East Toowoomba  QLD  4350**

**practicemanager@eastisdehealth.com.au**

## 2. When and why is your consent necessary?

When you register as a patient of this practice, you provide consent for the GPs and practice staff to access and use your personal information to facilitate the delivery of healthcare. Access to your personal information is restricted to practice team members who require it for your care. If we ever use your personal information for purposes other than outlined in this document, we will obtain additional consent from you.

It is important to us that as our patient, you understand why we collect and use your personal information.

By acknowledging this Privacy Policy you consent to us collecting, holding, using, retaining and disclosing your personal information in the manners described below.

## 3. Why do we collect, use, store, and share your personal information?

The practice collects, uses, stores, and shares your personal information primarily to manage your health safely and effectively. This includes providing healthcare services, managing medical records, and ensuring accurate billing and payments. Additionally, we may utilise your information for internal quality and safety improvement processes such as practice audits, accreditation purposes, and staff training to maintain high-quality service standards.

## 4. What personal information is collected?

The information we will collect about you includes your:

- names, date of birth, addresses, contact details
- medical information including medical history, medicines, allergies, and adverse reactions immunisations, social history, family history and risk factors

- Medicare number (where available) for identification and claiming purposes
- healthcare identifier numbers
- health fund details.

### 5. Can you deal with us anonymously?

You can 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.

### 6. How is personal information collected?

The practice may collect your personal information in several different ways:

When you make your first appointment, the practice team will collect your personal and demographic information via your registration.

We may also collect your personal information when you visit our website, send us an email or SMS, telephone us, make an online appointment, or communicate with us using social media.

In some circumstances, personal information may also be collected from other sources, including:

- 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.
- Your health fund, Medicare, or the Department of Veterans' Affairs (if relevant).
- While providing medical services, further personal information may be collected via:
    - electronic prescribing
    - My Health Record
    - online appointments.

Various types of images may be collected and used, including:

- **Photos and medical images:** These can be taken using personal devices for medical purposes, following the guidelines outlined in our guide on using personal devices for medical images.

***Using personal devices for medical images*** *The guidelines on using personal devices for medical images should align with Australian privacy obligations, particularly the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs) under the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth). The RACGP resource Using personal mobile devices for clinical photos provides further information on the considerations required when taking clinical photos on a personal mobile device that belongs to a clinician and is used outside of the workplace.*

**Compliance with privacy obligations**

To comply with Australian privacy obligations when collecting personal information from third-party sources, you must understand and adhere to the **Privacy Act 1988** and the **Australian Privacy Principles (APPs)** this includes:

- verifying third-party compliance

- ensuring informed consent

- collecting only necessary data

- maintaining data accuracy

- updating your privacy policy and notifying patients of these updates as required

- protecting data with strong security measures

- facilitating individuals' rights to their data

- providing regular education and training for the practice team on privacy practices.

We will always comply with privacy obligations when collecting personal information from third-party sources. This includes ensuring transparency with patients, obtaining necessary consents, maintaining data accuracy, securing the information, and using it only for specified purposes.

### 7. When, why and with whom do we share your personal information?

We sometimes share your personal information:

- with third parties for business purposes, such as accreditation agencies or information technology providers – these third parties are required to comply with APPs and this policy
- with other healthcare providers (e.g. In referral letters)
- when it is required or authorised by law (e.g. 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 it is a statutory requirement to share certain personal information (e.g. some diseases require mandatory notification)
- When it is provision of medical services, through electronic prescribing, My Health Record (e.g. via Shared Health Summary, Event Summary).

Only people who need to access your personal information will be able to do so. Other than providing medical services or as otherwise described in this policy, the practice will not share personal information with any third party without your consent. We do not share your personal information with anyone outside Australia (unless under exceptional circumstances that are permitted by law) without your consent.

### 8. Will your information be used for marketing purposes?

The practice will not use your personal information for marketing any goods or services directly to you without your express consent. If you do consent, you may opt out of direct marketing at any time by notifying the practice in writing.

### 9. How is your information used to improve services?

The practice may use your personal information to improve the quality of the services offered to patients through research, analysis of patient data for quality improvement and for training activities with the practice team

We may provide de-identified data to other organisations to improve population health outcomes. If we provide this information to other organisations patients cannot be identified from the information we share, the information is secure and is stored within Australia. You can let reception staff know if you do not want your de-identified information included.

***Definitions of de-identified and personal information***

*The* RACGP *Three key principles for the secondary use of general practice data by third parties defines de-identification as: the removing or altering information that identifies an individual or is likely to do so. Where information has been appropriately de-identified, it is no longer considered 'personal information' and can therefore be used or shared in ways that might not otherwise be permitted under the Privacy Act 1988 (Cwlth). A general practice can therefore lawfully share de-identified patient data without specific or express patient consent.*

*When personal information (i.e., data has not been de-identified) is requested by a third party, specific patient consent is usually needed, and the requesting entity will need to meet the requirements of a human research ethics committee.*

***Use of de-identified patient data***

*If the practice routinely provides patient health information to other organisations for secondary use the practice should make patients aware that this is occurring by including this information as part of the privacy policy. Practices should give patients assurances and advice on their rights and how their data is protected and must state the practice's approach to collection of healthcare information for primary and secondary purposes. Whilst patient consent for sharing de-identified practice data is not a legal requirement, it is good practice to have a procedure for ensuring patients who do not consent to secondary use of data are removed from any data extraction process. Most data extraction tools have this functionality.*

### 10. How are document automation technologies used?

Document automation is where systems use existing data to generate electronic documents relating to medical conditions and healthcare.

The practice uses document automation technologies to create documents such as referrals, which are sent to other healthcare providers. These documents contain only your relevant medical information.

These document automation technologies are used through secure medical software Best Practice.

All users of the medical software have their own unique user credentials and password and can only access information that is relevant to their role in the practice team.

The practice complies with the Australian privacy legislation and APPs to protect your information.

All data, both electronic and paper are stored and managed in accordance with the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners Privacy and managing health information guidance.

### 11. How are Artificial Intelligence (AI) Scribes used?

The practice uses an AI scribe tool to support GPs take notes during their consultations with you. The AI scribe uses an audio recording of your consultation to generate a clinical note for your health record. The practice AI scribe service is **Lyrebird Health.**

Lyrebird Health:

- Does not share information outside of Australia
- Destroys the audio file once the transcription is complete.
- Does not have access to sensitive, personal identifying information as part of the transcription

The practice will only use data from our digital scribe service to provide healthcare to you.

Here's a general outline of what a patient consent form for AI use might include:

Introduction and Purpose

• Provide a clear explanation of what AI is and how it will be used in the patient's care and outline the specific purpose of the AI application (e.g., diagnosing medical conditions, interpreting medical images, predicting outcomes)

How AI Will Be Used

• Describe which aspects of the patient's care will involve AI tools (e.g., imaging analysis, data review, decision support). and Mention the specific AI technologies (e.g., machine learning algorithms, natural language processing tools) that will be used.

Data Usage and Privacy

• Explain how the patient's medical data will be used stored, and protected. Reassure the patient that their data will be kept confidential and explain how data will be anonymized, if applicable.

Benefits and Risks

• Explain the potential benefits of using AI in their care, such as increased accuracy, faster decision-making, and personalized treatment plans. Also, acknowledge the risks, such as the possibility of errors in AI-driven decisions, reliance on algorithms that may not be fully validated, or technical issues that could impact care.

Patient Rights

• Emphasize that the patient has the right to withdraw consent for the use of AI at any time without it affecting their care. Outline the process if the patient chooses not to have AI tools used in their care.

### 12. How is your personal information stored and protected?

The practice stores all personal information securely in electronic formats, in protected information systems by unique username and passwords on a terminal server

### 13. How can you access and correct your personal information at the practice?

You have the right to request access to, and correction of, your personal information.

The practice acknowledges patients may request access to their medical records.

The practice will respond to any requests to access or correct your personal information within 30 days of receiving the request. You may be required to see your doctor to further discuss assessing your record and a fee may be incurred. The practice will take reasonable steps to correct your personal information where the information is not accurate or up to date. Sometimes, we will ask you to verify your personal information held by the practice is correct and current. You may request we correct or update your information, and you should make such requests in writing to the Practice Manager at the Medical Centre

### 14. How can you lodge a privacy-related complaint, and how will the complaint be handled at the practice?

We take complaints and concerns regarding privacy seriously. You should express any privacy concerns you may have. We will then attempt to resolve it in accordance with the resolution procedure. Please contact the Practice manager via email practicemanager@eastsidehealth.com.au or by phone 07 45800804. If you do not feel we have resolved your issue You may also contact the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner. The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner will require you to give them time to respond before they investigate. For further information visit **www.oaic.gov.au** or call the OAIC (Office of the Australian Information Commissioner) on 1300 363 992.

### 15. How is privacy on the website maintained?

At Eastside Health on Mary, any personal information you share with us through website and email is handled securely and confidentially. This practice uses analytics and cookies.

### 16. Policy review statement

Our privacy policy is regularly reviewed to ensure compliance with current obligations.

If any changes are made:

- They will be reflected on the website.
- Significant changes may be communicated directly to patients via email or other means.

Please check the policy periodically for updates. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us.