



Your Rights

Data protection legislation gives people a number of rights over how their personal information is used. These include the right to be informed, the right of access, rights to restrict and to object. There are also other rights, which are usually only applicable in certain circumstances. The Data Protection Officer at your local health board and at NHS National Services Scotland (nss.dataprotection@nhs.scot) can provide more details.

Any other concerns about data protection and Photonet can also be directed to these Data Protection Officers. If you are unhappy with how we deal with your concerns, you can make a complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). Details of how to do this are on their website at www.ico.org.uk.

For more information, contact:

National Network Management Service
NHS National Services Scotland
Meridian Court, 5 Cadogan Street
Glasgow, G2 6QE
Email: nss.photonet@nhs.scot
Website: www.photonet.scot.nhs.uk

Photonet National Managed Clinical Network for Phototherapy

Photosys Database Information Leaflet

This leaflet gives patients who receive phototherapy, information about:

- What Photonet is and what it does in Scotland
- The Photonet database and how information about patients will be recorded and used
- Legal basis for processing information

What is Photonet?

Photonet is the National Managed Clinical Network for Phototherapy. In November 2002 Photonet was set up to bring together different health professionals in Scotland who are involved in providing phototherapy. The Network aims to make sure that patients receiving phototherapy receive care based on nationally agreed standards and guidelines. The centre where you will receive your phototherapy is a member of Photonet so it is audited every year to make sure it meets the nationally agreed standards and follows the treatment guidelines.

The work of Photonet is co-ordinated and supported by National Services Scotland. Information about the care and treatment is drawn together from across Scotland and used to make sure that all patients receive the same high quality care from health professionals.

The Photonet database

Every time you attend for a course of phototherapy, information is recorded on our database, including your name, address, telephone number, GP's details, CHI (Community Health Index) number and details of your course of treatment. This information is used to make sure that the clinician knows how much phototherapy treatment you have received, and to make sure you understand the risks and benefits involved.

This information may be used for audit (maintaining and improving clinical standards) and research directly related to phototherapy as a treatment but will be anonymised if it is used for these purposes. Auditing is one way in which the NHS maintains high quality care and helps to identify where we can improve.

In some cases, if you have received a certain number of treatments or more, you may be offered the opportunity to come to your local Dermatology department for a skin check.

Who uses the database?

Professionals from the health board in your area enter the information on the database. The overall managers of the database are the National Services Division, part of NHS National Services Scotland, which is the common name for the Common Services Agency for the Scottish Health Service. NHS National Services Scotland and the 14 NHS health boards are joint controllers under data protection legislation. The legal basis for using the information on the database is that it is needed for:

- Performing a task that we're carrying out in the public interest
- Providing health or social care treatment or managing health or social care systems or services

We keep the information on the database up to 3 years after date of death and in line with the requirements of the Scottish Government records management NHS code of practice.