

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 of 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. If we need to use your information for anything else, we will seek additional consent from you to do this.

Why do we collect, use, hold and share your personal details?

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 (e.g. staff training).

How do we store and protect your personal information?

Your personal information is stored at our practice in electronic records and visual records (e.g. X-rays). Our practice stores all personal information securely. Our practice has confidentiality agreements in place for all staff and contractors. Our computers, clinical and administration programs are all password protected.

How can you access and correct your personal details?

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 by completing The Request of Medical Records form and our practice will respond within 30 days. There may be a fee for your medical records. Our practice will take reasonable steps to correct your personal information where the information is not accurate or up to date. From time to time, we will ask you to verify that your personal information held by our practice is correct and current. You may also request that we correct or update your information, and you should make such requests to our reception team.

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. We will then attempt to resolve it in accordance with our resolution procedure. All complaints will be addressed within 30 days of receiving the complaint.

Complaints can be emailed to our practice manager: practicemanager@farrellstreetfp.com.au or mailed to
Farrell Street Family Practice
Shop 6, 1 Gympie Road
Yandina Qld 4561

The Office of the Health Ombudsman may also be contacted
PO Box 13281
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4003
P: 131 646

FARRELL STREET Family PRACTICE

Patient Privacy Brochure

Shop 6, 1 Gympie Road | Yandina | Qld | 4561

T 07 5446 8822

F 07 5446 8877

E admin@farrellstreetfp.com.au

W <https://www.doctorsunshinecoast.com/>

OPENING HOURS

Monday – Friday	8:30 am – 5:00 pm
Saturday:	CLOSED
Sunday:	CLOSED

GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

- Dr M.A. Ghafoor
- Dr M.F. Rafiq
- Dr R. Vimalan
- Dr M. Shaikh
- Dr P. Pissini

What personal information do we collect?

The information we will collect about you includes your:

- 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 (where available) for identification and claiming purposes
- healthcare identifiers

What is a Patient Health Record

A health record is a confidential compilation of pertinent facts of an individual's health history, including all past and present medical conditions, illnesses and treatments, with emphasis on the specific events affecting the patient during the current episode of care. The information documented in the health record is created by all healthcare professionals providing care and is used for continuity of care.

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.

There may be range of circumstances where providing services anonymously may be impracticable.

For example:

- a service may require follow up. If the person does not provide details to allow this, the ongoing care may be compromised
- the care to be provided involves a multi-disciplinary team, making it difficult to provide ongoing care without a clear identification of the patient
- a patient's medical status may be compromised if a clinician cannot obtain clinical information critical to providing safe and appropriate care

Privacy and our website

We do not collect personal information via our practice website

Review 01.02.2022

How do we collect your personal information?

Our practice may collect your personal information in several different ways.

1. When you make your first appointment our practice staff will collect your personal and demographic information via your registration. This information is documented in our secure software provider Best Practice, this software provides automated systems so that only the relevant information is included in referrals
2. During the course of providing medical services, we may collect further personal information.
3. Information can also be collected through My Health Record, e.g. via Shared Health Summary, Event Summary.
4. We may also collect your personal information when you send us an email or SMS, telephone us, make an online appointment or communicate with us using social media.
5. 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
 - your health fund, Medicare, or the Department of Veterans' Affairs (as necessary).

Policy review statement

This privacy policy was reviewed October 2021.

This policy will be reviewed to ensure it is in accordance with any changes that may occur.

Next review date: February 2022.

The current policy is displayed on website and an updated copy can be accessed at the practice.

When, why, and with whom do we share your personal details?

We sometimes share your personal information:

- with third parties who work with our practice 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
- 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 there is a statutory requirement to share certain personal information (e.g. some diseases require mandatory notification)
- during the course of providing medical services, through My Health Record (e.g. via Shared Health Summary, Event Summary).

Only people who 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 circumstances that are permitted by law) without your consent. Our practice will not use your personal information for marketing any of our 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 our practice in writing.