



Port Macquarie GPs Privacy Policy

Current as of: 01/01/2025

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 information?

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).

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
- Health fund details.

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.

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.
2. During the course of providing medical services, we may collect further personal information. This may be collected through e-scripts, e-referrals, My Health Record, PRODA, Medicare, Imaging and Pathology providers, Specialists, Previous GP's, Hospitals.
3. During your consultation with your general practitioner a digital transcription software may be used to improve accuracy with medical record taking. No audio recording is retained.
4. 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.

PORT MACQUARIE GPs



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).

When why and with whom do we share your personal information?

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 eTP, My Health Record (eg via Shared Health Summary, Event Summary).

- E-Health services such as e-scripts, e-referrals, My Health Record, PRODA, Medicare Online Claiming.

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.

How do we store and protect your personal information?

Your personal information may be stored at our practice in various forms such as paper records, electronic records, visual records (Medical imaging scans, videos and photo's), audio recordings, CCTV.

Our practice stores all personal information securely in electronic and paper format in protected information systems. We have individual user passwords, locked cabinets, and confidentiality/privacy agreements for all staff and contractors.

How can you access and correct your personal information at our practice?

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 a form at reception and our practice will respond within a reasonable time (30 days).

PORT MACQUARIE GPs



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 in writing to The Manager via email on management@portgps.com.au.

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 within 30 days.

Manager – Port GPs

A: 38 Clifton Drive Port Macquarie 2444

P: 02 6584 4544

E: management@portgps.com.au

You may also contact the OAIC. Generally, the OAIC will require you to give them time to respond before they investigate. For further information visit www.oaic.gov.au or call the OAIC on 1300 363 992.

Privacy and our website

We do not collect any personal information via our website.

All queries about the practice should be made to reception by phone, mail, or in person and where this is not possible, by email. We have an automatic response to emails with disclaimer relating to personal and sensitive information, and the intended recipient.

Please note: Our practice email is not encrypted, and best efforts are made to ensure they are sent to the correct recipient.

Email correspondence may include personal information and you may be asked to contact us using a different method of communication so that we can verify your identity.

Policy review statement

We review our policy statement regularly to ensure it is in accordance with any changes that may occur. We will notify you on our website with available signage at reception of any changes.