



Your Healthcare, Your Record, Your Number

Do you know your NHS Number?

Do you know where your NHS Number is or where to find it?

Do you use your NHS Number?

Each NHS Number is specific to an individual person. Like you it is unique and stays with you for life. It is the only National Unique Patient Identifier available for healthcare, which means it is literally the link between you and all your healthcare records.

A NHS Number is a 10 digit string of numbers – you can find this on your medical card given to you when you registered with a GP. If you don't know your number, you can write to Patient Data Services, NHS East Riding of Yorkshire, Health House, Grange Park Lane, Willerby, HU10 6DT.

Why is your NHS Number important?

- An NHS Number used in a patients care pathway, links all the patients' records together, creating a fuller, more accurate health history for that patient.
- Having an NHS Number assists in the reduction of patient misidentification.
- It helps reduce the creation of multiple records for a patient. Multiple records fracture a patients history across many files. This therefore makes it more difficult for a clinician to treat a patient efficiently.
- Healthcare staff can find patient records more easily and share them safely with other people caring for the patient.

NHS staff will begin to ask for NHS Numbers more often, so we would like to remind you to keep yours in a safe place that you have easy access to. Visit www.eastridingofyorkshire.nhs.uk/NHSNumber for more information.