**NHS Patient Data Opt-out Compliance Statement**

Whenever you use a health or care service, such as attending Accident & Emergency or using Community Care services, important information about you is collected in a patient record for that service. Collecting this information helps the NHS to ensure you get the best possible care and treatment.

The information collected about you when you use these services can also be used and provided to other organisations for purposes beyond your individual care, for example research and planning. However, most of the time, anonymised data is used for research and planning so that you cannot be identified in which case, your confidential patient information is not needed.

To find out more or to register your choice to opt out, please visit [www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters](http://www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters).  On this web page, you will:

* See what is meant by confidential patient information
* Find examples of when confidential patient information is used for individual care and examples of when it is used for purposes beyond individual care
* Find out more about the benefits of sharing data
* Understand more about who uses the data
* Find out how your data is protected
* Be able to access the system to view, set or change your opt-out setting
* Find the contact telephone number if you want to know any more or to set/change your opt-out by phone
* See the situations where the opt-out will not apply

**Cobalt is Patient Data Opt-out Compliant.**

At Cobalt, we do not use your confidential information for research or planning purposes, unless you have specifically consented for us to do so.

On occasion though, the NHS may request that we provide your confidential patient information so that they can use it for research or planning purposes. In order to ensure that we are Patient Data Opt-out compliant, we have put systems in place to ensure that we will not provide your confidential data unless we have verified with NHS Digital (via your NHS number) that you have not opted-out of your data being used.