



Information for Transgender Patients

Or for those wishing to change their name, title and or gender on their NHS records

We support all patient groups and are committed to accessibility and inclusion, but we also know we may not always get things right. If there is anything you think we can improve or change to make accessing our services easier for you, please email theridingsmedicalgroup@nhs.net

Confidentiality

We hold everyone's medical records in the strictest confidence, regardless of whether these are electronic or paper. We take all reasonable precautions to prevent unauthorised access to your records. Access to medical records is audited in this Practice. Your NHS records are only shared with our Practice team and other organisations directly involved in your care that have a genuine need for it e.g. community health services, hospitals, mental health services, social care, NHS 111. We will not share your information with any other third party without your permission unless it is an exceptional situation (e.g. life or death situation) or where the law tells us to.

Changing Your Name on your NHS records

Please inform the Practice via email theridingsmedicalgroup@nhs.net. No proof of ID is needed, however if you do have a deed poll or marriage certificate with your name change we would appreciate a copy of this being attached. This name will be used by staff, on automated call-in screen, and communications from the Practice e.g. SMS, letters, email. You can request to change your name at any time.

Changing Your Title on your NHS records

You can change your title from Mr to Mx, or Miss, Mrs, Ms to Mx without changing your gender. Previously, the NHS computer system was only binary. For example, a male gender marker could only have been set as Mr or Mx and the computer system only accepted a female gender marker as Mx/Miss/Mrs/Ms. However, this has now been changed and the new computer system allows staff to accept any title change without changing the NHS number. Therefore, if a patient is female and wants their title to be MR then we can make the change this without obtaining a new NHS number.

Changing your gender marker on your NHS records to male or female

You can do this at any time, you do not need to have undergone any form of gender affirmation treatment, have been referred to a gender identity clinic or have any official documentation. Changing your gender will mean you will be allocated a new NHS number. Your previous notes will be merged to your new notes, minus any previous identity information. Any subsequent changes to gender would involve a further NHS number. Once we receive your gender marker change request, we will book you

an appointment with one of our clinicians with a special interest, to discuss cancer screening tests and merging your old and new notes.

Unfortunately, the NHS only accepts a male or female gender for registration and for gender change currently, if you wish to choose non-binary or other marker, we can add an alert to your notes, so we as a practice know your preferred gender. Without a male or female gender, we cannot register you or change your gender as Primary Care Services England (PCSE) will reject the application. Sadly, this is out of our hands, but we do understand your frustrations about this.

A new NHS number can take up to 12 weeks to come through to us, once we notify PCSE. Once we receive your new NHS number, we will create a new registration for you at the practice within 14 days and will aim to merge your old records to your new records in a timely manner. You should be informed of your new NHS number by PCSE. If you do not receive this, please contact us and we can give it to you. You may need to inform any hospitals you are under of your new NHS number so they can update your records.

Cancer Screening Tests

Unfortunately, currently national cancer screening test invitations are sent out based on the gender marker on your NHS records. This system is currently very binary and only accepts a male or female gender marker on NHS medical notes. Again, this is a national decision and out of our hands. If you wish to choose non-binary or another gender identity, we can add an alert to your notes, so we as a Practice know your gender identity. Importantly patients who have changed their gender marker on their NHS records may not be invited to some of these cancer screenings, meaning there is a risk of missing cancer. Please see [NHS screening Guidance for Trans Patients](#) for more information. We will make you an appointment for you to discuss any concerns and screening tests with one of our clinicians with a special interest.

Cervical cancer screening in trans men and non-binary people with a cervix

We welcome you to have your cervical screening at the surgery by highly trained staff. Please see this NHS video on cervical screening in trans men [Cervical screening for transgender men | NHS - YouTube](#) As a practice we will ensure you get called in for your screening opportunities as long as you are registered with us, but we do need to know your assigned gender at birth to ensure you get called in at the right time. Further information can be found at [Information for trans and non binary people](#) and at [Trans and non-binary cancer screening | Cancer Research UK](#).