Understanding Patient Data

Public attitudes to a Single Patient Record: what does the evidence tell us?

What wider evidence tells us about public attitudes to SPR

Most evidence relates to data sharing, data linking and access to health records rather than experience of a fully operational SPR system.

- High expectations and perceived benefits
- Support is high but not uniform
- SPR may affect what some people share with their doctor
- People expect strong safeguards

61% thought a single national record already existed.
UPD and Qa Research (2025). Public Perspectives on GP Record Data

SPR would address tangible problems people experience

- Poor coordination between organisations (69% see this as a problem)
- Having to repeat information (65%)
- Staff being unable to access relevant information from other services (57%)

UPD (2026). UK Patient Data Sentiment Tracker

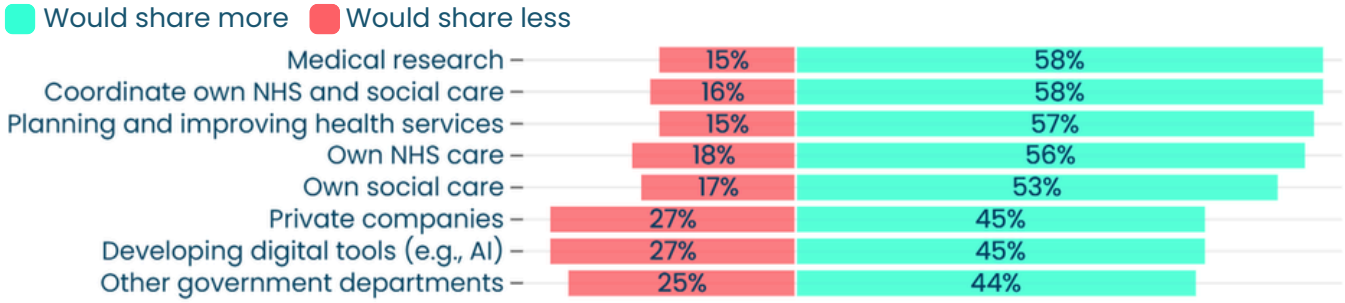
57% support a SPR – only 14% do not (54% aware).
UPD (2026). UK Patient Data Sentiment Tracker

Support is relatively high, but not uniform

- Support is higher among older, more affluent and digitally engaged people.
- Support also depends on how SPR information will be used, with stronger support for planning and research than use by private companies.

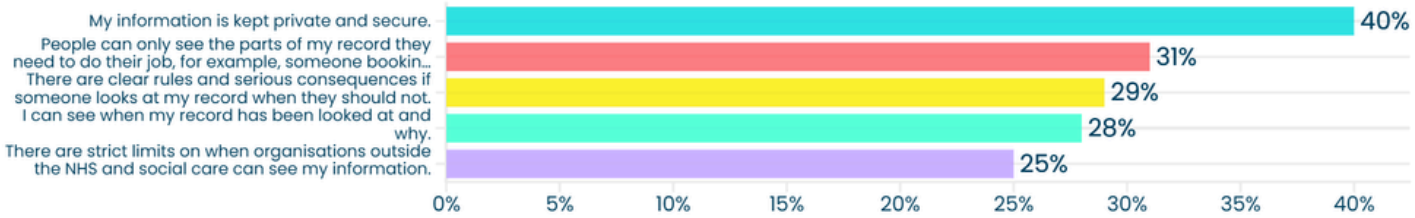
Who uses the data from a Single Patient Record may affect what people share with their doctor

Between 26% and 31% said it wouldnt make a difference, across all uses



Support for is accompanied by clear expectations about how access and use will be governed

- Secure systems and need-to-know access
- Transparency and visible audit trails
- Clear accountability and consequences for misuse
- Meaningful choice, particularly for sensitive information



Respondents selected up to three. Top five shown.

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