



Patient Information Privacy Notice

February 2026

This notice explains your rights on how we use information about you, how we keep your information safe and confidential, and how you can access your health records.

Who we are:

We are a hospice, providing a range of supportive, palliative and end of life care services to the communities within Renfrewshire and neighbouring North Ayrshire. St Vincent's Hospice (SVH) is a charity and is registered with the Scottish Charity Commission (registered charity no. SC006888).

We provide a wide range of services including:

- Inpatient Unit with medical, nursing and multidisciplinary team input
- Day Services
- Community Service (including Specialist Nurses and Doctors)
- Supportive Care Clinic
- Patient and Family Support Services (including Social Work, Bereavement Counselling, Spiritual Care and a focus on inclusion)
- Children and Young People's Bereavement Service

What is a privacy notice?

A privacy notice is a statement produced by St. Vincent's Hospice to patients, service users, families, carers, visitors, the public and staff, that describes how we collect, use, retain and disclose personal information which we hold.

At St. Vincent's Hospice, we recognise the importance of protecting personal and confidential information in all that we do, and we take care to meet our legal and regulatory duties.

Who are we governed by?

Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS)
Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)
Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)
Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP)

Our healthcare professionals and some registered support staff are also regulated and governed by professional bodies including, but not limited to, the General Medical Council (GMC), the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), and the Health and Care Professionals Council (HCPC).

Why do we collect information about you?

When you are referred to our services, we may ask for or hold personal confidential information about you, which will be used to support the delivery of appropriate care and treatment. Your doctor, as well as other health and social care professionals looking after you, record details of your health and any treatments or services you have received. This, alongside information that you may be able to provide directly, enables us to ensure that your care is truly individualised and meets all of your specific needs.

What types of information do we have about you?

The information we hold about you could include:

- Basic details, such as your name, address, date of birth and next of kin
- Any contact we have had with you and when you have visited us
- Your medical history, as well as notes and reports about your health and any treatment you have received, either from us or other healthcare providers
- Other information from people who care for you and know you well, such as health and social care professionals and relatives.

It may also include personal sensitive information such as sexuality, race, your religion or beliefs, and whether you have a disability, allergies or health conditions. It is important for us to have a complete picture, as this information assists staff involved in your care to deliver appropriate treatment and care plans to meet your needs.

Where do we get your information from?

Your information is collected in a number of ways, including from the health or social care team who have referred you to our services. This will normally be your GP, Hospital Consultant or District Nurse. Alternatively, you may have self-referred to our hospice and therefore information will have been obtained directly from you.

How do we use your information?

Broadly, your health records are used as a guide to help us plan the care that you will receive from our hospice. However, the information can also be used in other ways:

- To help inform decisions that we make about your care
- To ensure that your treatment is safe and effective
- To work effectively with other organisations who may be involved in your care
- To investigate any concerns or complaints you may have, either about your care or the standards of any health or social care professionals looking after you.

We may share your information with other health and social care providers when it is in your best interests. For example, this may be information provided to your GP about the care that you have received from our hospice; it may be to a hospital or another health or social care service, where we consider that you would benefit from their involvement. We will speak to you about any referrals that we recommend and the reasons for them.

In some cases, we use your anonymised information (by removing anything that identifies you) to:

- Ensure our services can meet future needs
- Review care provided to ensure it is of the highest standard possible
- Train healthcare professionals

- Participate in research and audit
- Prepare statistics on our performance
- Monitor how we spend money
- Share with external regulators, e.g. HIS.

How is information retained and kept safe?

Information is retained in secure electronic and paper records and access is restricted to only those who need to know. Our staff and volunteers are expected to adhere to strict contractual conditions that are underpinned by the sharing and processing of information agreements that we have in place.

Technology allows us to protect information in a number of ways, in the main by restricting access. Our guiding principle is that we are holding your information in strict confidence.

How do we keep information confidential?

Everyone working for St. Vincent's Hospice adheres to our Confidentiality and Data Protection Policies. These have been written to comply with the EU General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. Information provided in confidence will only be used for the purposes to which you consent, unless there are other circumstances covered by the law.

All staff are required to protect information, inform you of how your information will be used and allow you to decide if and how your information can be shared. This will be noted in your records.

All staff are required to undertake training in data protection and confidentiality.

Once your care/contact with St. Vincent's Hospice has ceased, your clinical records are retained for a certain period, dependent upon the type of record. These retention schedules are detailed within our current records management policies and are informed by the best practice guidance from NHS Scotland.

Who will the information be shared with?

To provide the best care possible, sometimes we will need to share information about you with others. We may share your information with a range of health and social care organisations and regulatory bodies. You may be contacted by any one of these organisations for a specific reason; they will have a duty to tell you why they have contacted you. Information sharing is governed by specific rules and law. We will not disclose any health information to third parties without your explicit consent, unless there are exceptional circumstances, such as when the health or safety of others is at risk or where the law requires the disclosure of information.

We may also be asked to share basic information about you, such as your name and parts of your address, which does not include sensitive information from your health records. Generally, we would only do this to assist other health and social care providers (such as the NHS) to carry out their statutory duties (such as usages of healthcare services, public health or national audits). In these circumstances, where it is not practical to obtain your explicit consent, we are informing you through this notice, which is referred to as a Privacy Notice, under the Data Protection Act 2018.

You have the right to refuse/withdraw consent to information sharing at any time. We will fully explain the possible consequences to you, which could include delays in you receiving care.

Your rights

Under the Data Protection Act 2018 you have the following rights:

1. The right to access certain aspects of your personal information using a Subject Access Request (SAR).
2. The right to edit and update certain aspects of your personal information.
3. The right to request to have certain aspects of your personal information deleted.
4. The right to restrict processing of certain aspects of your personal information.
5. The right to object.
6. The right to lodge a complaint with a supervisory authority.

Should you wish to exercise any of these rights, in terms of the clinical records that we hold about you, you can make a request to see your data for free by completing a Subject Access Request Form which is available upon request. Please provide us with all the requested information in a written format to help us locate your records. You must provide proof of your identity by enclosing two pieces of approved identification. Please address this to:

Director of Care & Quality & SVH Caldicott Guardian

St Vincent's Hospice
Midton Road
Howwood
PA9 1AF

A few things to note following a SAR:

- Your request will be processed within 30 days of receiving the request and all the relevant information that we require.
- We will do our best to provide you with all the information you have asked for. If you think we have given you any information incorrectly, or you have not been given all the information you think you should be getting, please let us know.
- In some instances, we may not be able to provide you with all the information you have requested. We may hold back certain information if it relates to another person and, as such, we would need their permission to provide it to you.
- A person's health records are usually held for a minimum of 7 years after the last clinical entry, unless the person has died (see below).
- A person's health records are usually held for a minimum of 3 years after their death, though this may be longer in specific circumstances.
- According to the Access to Health Records Act 1990, other people are allowed to view your health records after your death – but only if they are your personal representative; an executor named in your Will; or someone who has a legal reason to access your health information.
- If you are dissatisfied with our decision following a complaint, you may wish to contact:

Information Commissioner's Office

Their web site is at <https://ico.org.uk/> The Information Commissioner will not normally consider an appeal until you have exhausted your rights of redress and complaint to the hospice.

Changes to our Privacy Notice

We keep our privacy notice under regular review and may update it from time to time. When we do we will revise the updated date at the top of the first page. If there are any significant changes in the way that we treat your personal information we will place a prominent notice on our website.