

Why we ask for Next of Kin?

The service you are accessing is an NHS service.

In England it is common for most NHS services to collect Next of Kin details for its patients and we will ask you for this information at your first appointment with us.

Who can be Next of Kin?

Although it is common practice, next of kin isn't a legal term and you can nominate anybody to be your next of kin. Usually, it is a close blood relative, or a spouse or life partner and you should tell the person you chose that they have been named as your next of kin. You can find out more about next of kin here:

<https://www.patients-association.org.uk/next-of-kin/gethelp/adviceandinformationleaflets/nextofkin>

How we use next of kin information?

The use of next of kin information will vary depending on the types of care provided by different services. In our service the reason that we ask for this information is so that we can meet our Duty of Candour.

Duty of Candour means that we will be open, honest and transparent about the care we provide, and should anything happen that requires an investigation into the care you have received from us we will be open and honest about this with you, and in some circumstances with your next of kin. You can find out more about Duty of Candour here:

[rcn.org.uk/get help/advice guides/dutyofcandour](https://rcn.org.uk/get-help/advice-guides/dutyofcandour)

Or you can request a copy of our Duty of Candour policy.

The only reason your next of kin will be contacted in our service will be if there is an investigation into the care you have received - we will not contact your next of kin or share details about your care under any other circumstances.

Thank you for providing us with this information