

Why is the NHS Number important to me?

Your NHS Number is unique to you. Using it to identify you correctly is an important step towards improving the safety of your healthcare.

If you know your NHS Number, or have it on a document or letter, you can help healthcare staff find your records more easily and share them safely with other people who are caring for you.

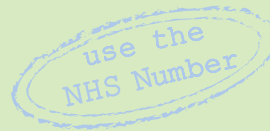
As an added safety measure, you can start checking the things the NHS send you to make sure they have your correct NHS Number.

NHS staff will begin to ask for your NHS Number more often, so remember to keep it in a safe place which you have easy access to.

NHS Connecting for Health is the national organisation which is supporting your local NHS to introduce new computer systems and services. These will help us to deliver better, safer care for NHS patients. For more information about this, visit www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk

This is your NHS number:

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NHS
Connecting for Health

Take this with you whenever you visit your GP or other health care worker



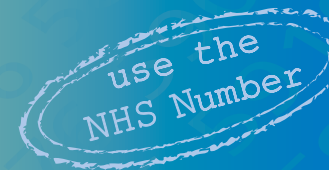
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NHS

Connecting for Health

How to find your NHS Number

Your healthcare, your record, your number



NHS Number

What is my NHS Number?

Everyone who is registered with the NHS in England and Wales has their own unique NHS Number. You will be given your NHS Number in writing, when you register with a GP. Your NHS Number helps healthcare staff to find your health records. Each NHS Number is made up of 10 digits shown in a 3-3-4 format, usually as follows.

This is your NHS Number:

9	4	3		4	7	6		5	9	1	9
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(This is an example only.)

If you have an old medical card, it will have an old-style NHS Number made up of both letters and numbers. This has now been replaced, for all patients, by a new NHS Number made up entirely of numbers.

Why have the old NHS Numbers been replaced?

The new-style 10-digit NHS Number was created specifically to help make it easier for patients to be uniquely identified across the NHS.

The first nine digits are used to identify you and the 10th is used to confirm that the number is valid. This 10-digit number was introduced in 1996 (replacing the older version) to improve accuracy, access to information and confidentiality.

Do I need my NHS Number to get care?

No, it is not essential that you know your NHS Number, but it is helpful if you can give it to NHS staff who need to find your health records.

Is my NHS Number the same as my National Insurance (NI) number?

No, your NHS Number is different from your National Insurance (NI) number, which is used for tax, benefits and pensions. If you have any questions about your National Insurance number, you can contact your local office of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). To find your local office, visit www.dwp.gov.uk.

How can I find out my NHS Number?

If you want to know your NHS Number, or you have an old-style number and want to know your new one, please follow the instructions listed below.

You can also check any recent letters you have had from the NHS, as these should now include your NHS Number. It is important to keep a record of your NHS Number safe, as it will be used in any letters or health records about you.

I am registered with a GP practice. What is my NHS Number?

To find out your NHS Number you can contact your GP practice and ask them to look it up. To protect your privacy, you may be asked to show a passport, driving licence or some other proof of identity.

I am not currently registered with a GP practice, but I think I already have an NHS Number. How do I find out what it is?

To find out your NHS Number in this case, you can ask your local primary care trust (PCT) to look it up for you.

To find out the phone number for your nearest primary care trust, visit the NHS Choices website at www.nhs.uk, go to 'Primary Care Trusts' in the 'Find services' section and enter your postcode. Or, call NHS Direct on **0845 4647**.

When you phone your local primary care trust, ask for the department dealing with 'patient GP registrations'. They should be able to give you your NHS Number or pass you on to the right person within that primary care trust.

I have never registered with a GP practice. Will I have an NHS Number?

Anyone born in England or Wales who has registered with a GP practice will have an NHS Number. To register, you can either go to the practice yourself or ask your local primary care trust to put you on the local GP's list.

To find your nearest GP practice or primary care trust, visit the NHS Choices website at www.nhs.uk, go to 'Primary Care Trusts' in the 'Find services' section and enter your postcode. Or, call NHS Direct on **0845 4647**.

I have recently had a baby. Do they have an NHS Number?

If your baby was born in hospital in England and Wales, they should have been given an NHS Number, through the hospital system, shortly after they were born. If they were born at home, the health visitor will usually tell you the baby's NHS Number when they next see you and the baby at your home or at their clinic.

