



The Information Commissioners Office (ICO) has given advice in relation to recent concerns about the sharing of patient medical records held by GPs on TPP SystemOne, for the purposes of direct care.

The statement says:

"The ICO has data protection compliance concerns about SystemOne's enhanced data sharing function... However, given the possible impact to patient care, the ICO is not advocating that users switch off data sharing at this stage. The ICO's concerns are centred on the fair and lawful processing of patient data on the system and ensuring adequate security of the patient data on the system. We continue to work closely with TPP, NHS Digital and NHS England and have seen an initial plan that they have put forward. This includes initial steps they are taking to remedy these issues and further work is planned"

Keith McNeil, NHS Chief Clinical Information Officer, said: "Access to good information is essential to good care. Doctors, nurses and other health care workers need to see a person's medical history to be able to give them safe and effective treatment. "Every health and care worker knows that medical information is sensitive, personal and should only be accessed when appropriate. Rules about appropriate use are written into individual contracts, and for clinicians it is also part of professional codes of practice.

"Medical data should always be managed fairly and lawfully, with the highest levels of security and safety. Access to records in commonly used GP IT systems is audited and can always be traced back because users log in using unique identifiers and secure access methods.

"We are currently working with TPP and GP representatives to address concerns raised by ICO."