

# OpenPHR

**“PHR platforms implementing open standards for interoperability are key to developing scalable digital tools for use by patients and service users across a health economy.”**

Andy Payne, PHR subject matter expert, NHS digital

**University Hospital Southampton (UHS) has developed a personal health record (PHR) on an open platform with data stored securely in the Microsoft Azure cloud. OpenPHR is untethered – it’s independent of an electronic health record (EHR) – but hospital systems can connect to it via a FHIR interface or a multi-platform SDK. Patients can view, contribute to and share their record with care teams and approved apps. It puts them more in control.**

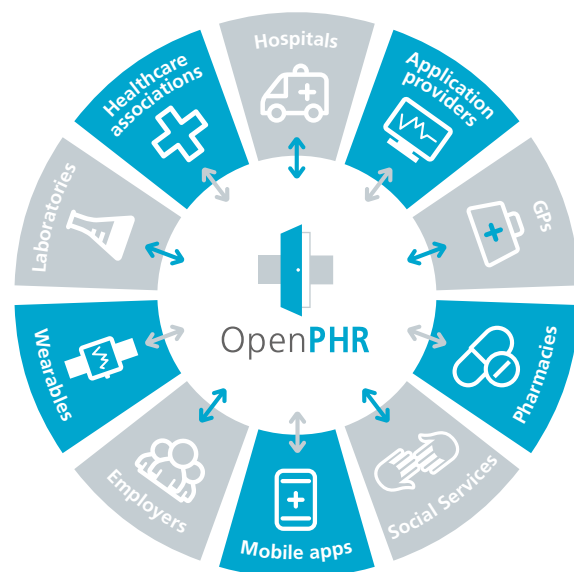
**Keywords: Untethered, Cloud, FHIR, PHR, Patient-centred**

The limitations of closed data have been felt across the health care sector, and were summarised recently by Health Secretary, Matt Hancock: “The fact that your hospital can’t see your GP record, or that you as a patient don’t have control over your own data, or that even within the same hospital different departments have to write down basic details is expensive, frustrating for staff, and risks patient safety.”

UHS have been providing patient-facing online services through ‘My Medical Record’ since 2012. Its various uses include messaging between patients and clinicians, the upload of information to patients on their conditions, and for patients to view their clinical letters, all held securely in the Microsoft Azure cloud.

My Medical Record is built using two Get Real Health products – a patient engagement platform, InstantPHR, and a data aggregation and development platform, OpenPHR. As the name suggests, OpenPHR is an open platform, which opens the marketplace up to app developers, and allows information from other systems and even personal devices to be integrated.

OpenPHR will enable direct integration of data from patients’ own devices, such as those measuring weight, heart rate, temperature, sleeping patterns and exercise. The increasing medical grade nature of these now allows true clinical monitoring, and opens the door to research opportunities. With patient information securely collected and shared, it will be easier to measure the impact of healthcare delivery on patient outcomes.



Using OpenPHR has the potential to greatly reduce the time spent by clinicians interpreting data and duplicating data entry, releasing time for patient care. UHS plans to integrate the Trust's messaging system, Medxnote, to support teams with the remote surveillance of patients on digital pathways. Bots will be used to notify healthcare teams of important information, such as out of range lab results, via instant messaging which will enable early intervention and streamlined processes.



Wearable devices can be integrated with OpenPHR.

### Want to know more?

If you're building an app that you think could integrate with OpenPHR or you'd like to find out more, get in contact:

 [mymedicalrecord@uhs.nhs.uk](mailto:mymedicalrecord@uhs.nhs.uk)

 [@mymedrec](https://twitter.com/mymedrec)

### Worried about GDPR and privacy?

When GDPR laws came into force in May 2018, the My Medical Record team at UHS put measures in place to ensure UHS as both a data controller, and a data processor for other Trusts, was fully compliant. This has included information audit and data flow mapping, and establishing the lawful basis for processing personal data. It has been important to the team to also assist external Trusts in ensuring their use of the system met the terms of the new laws. Therefore the team has created the following documents to support the sites using My Medical Record:

- a reference Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) that can be used across sites
- contract agreements for all of their commercial sites based on Crown Commercial Service's procurement policy note
- a single document summarising how My Medical Record complies with the various elements of GDPR
- a privacy/fair processing notice that refers to the various Trusts privacy notices
- completed the Article 30 documentation requirements

### References

NHS England (2018), Interoperability [online] accessed on 11/09/2018 <https://www.england.nhs.uk/digitaltechnology/connecteddigitalsystems/interoperability/>