

Consent to Information Sharing in TPP SystemOne

SystemOne supports patient choice not only in terms of whether information is 'shared out' between organisations (i.e. between the Trust and GP Practices) which is known as NHS CRS level, but also whether it is 'shared in' between units in an organisation, this is known as the patients 'unit level sharing preference'

It should be noted that allowing 'sharing out' only allows those units at which a patient is registered to have access to the patient record, this means that if a patient consents to sharing at NHS CRS Level at their GP Practice, only those units within the Trust that have the patient registered will be able to see the patients record, not all units within the Trust, therefore the majority of patient records will not be seen outside of the GP Practice.

1. Unit Level Sharing Preference

Any clinician when referring a patient into another service within the Trust should explain to the patient the ability within SystemOne to share their health records with the service to which they are being referred. If the patient consents/dissents to sharing this should be indicated on the referral.

Within the Trust, patients are usually registered within a unit by an administrator. If the patient has been referred to the unit by another Trust unit then that referral should state whether or not the patient has been informed and consented/dissented to sharing their record. If this is the case the administrator can mark the record as shareable/private as per the Quick Reference Guide to setting sharing preferences.

If the patient has dissented to share at NHS CRS level then the sharing preferences will be set to 'implicit dissent' and the record will remain private until the patient is asked for their consent/dissent to share.

When a clinician has their first consultation with that patient they must then explain the sharing ability of SystemOne and update the sharing preferences within the record accordingly.

An example of how sharing preferences can be set is given below.

2. NHS CRS Level Sharing Preference

Every person registered on the PDS (Patient Demographics Service) has a global flag which indicates, in broadest terms, whether or not they wish to participate in the NHS Care Records Service (NHS CRS). The flag known as the patient's NHS CRS information sharing preference, can be viewed and changed in SystemOne but is ultimately held on PDS and will be accessed in time by all clinical systems delivered by NHS Connecting for Health as part of the National Programme for IT.

The NHS CRS flag is set initially to 'Implied Consent' on PDS. When a patient specifies an NHS CRS information sharing preference, the flag should be changed to either explicit consent or dissent accordingly.

When a patient explicitly consents or dissents to NHS CRS information sharing, their choice will affect how their information is shared not only within SystemOne, but across the NHS Care Record Service as a whole. It determines two things: 1) whether information in the patient's electronic record will be shared outside of the legal organisation by which it was created; 2) whether the patient's Summary Care Record, if they wish to have one, will be shared.

If a patient's NHS CRS information sharing preference is set to dissent, this will not prevent the clinician they are seeing from creating a Choose and Book referral, as clinical communications of this nature are not impacted by sharing preferences.

3. Sharing preferences for individual events

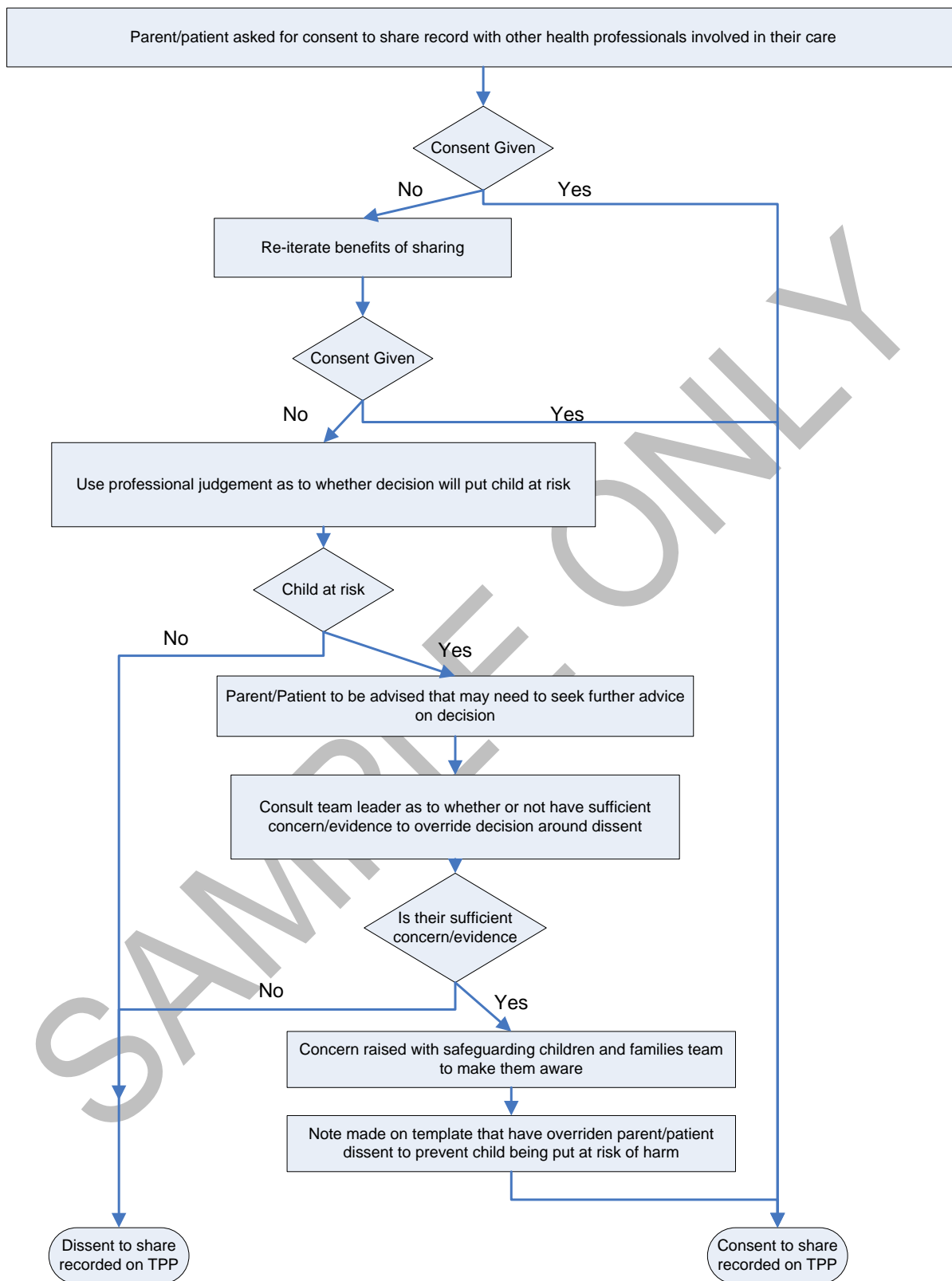
SystemOne allows users to set the sharing preference for individual events in the patient record, based on the patient's wishes. This means that, where the record sharing preference as a whole has been set to 'shareable', it is still possible to mark individual events that the patient wishes to keep within the confines of the unit as private.

An 'event' refers to any information entered into the patient record with the same date and time stamp.

4. Obtaining consent to share children's records

Consent for sharing of children records should be sought using the guidance in appendix 4 section 4.5. If consent is not given by either the person with parental responsibility or the child, the following guidance should be followed: (see page 45 below)

Sharing Diagram on TPP (SystemOne)



Sharing Example

The patient is receiving care from three organisations: GP, District Nursing and Smoking Cessation. The patient wants their GP and District Nurse to share information with each other and the patient wants both the GP and District Nurse to be able to access the information being recorded by the Smoking Cessation service; however the patient does not want the Smoking Cessation service to see any other medical information. The sharing settings would be as follows:-

