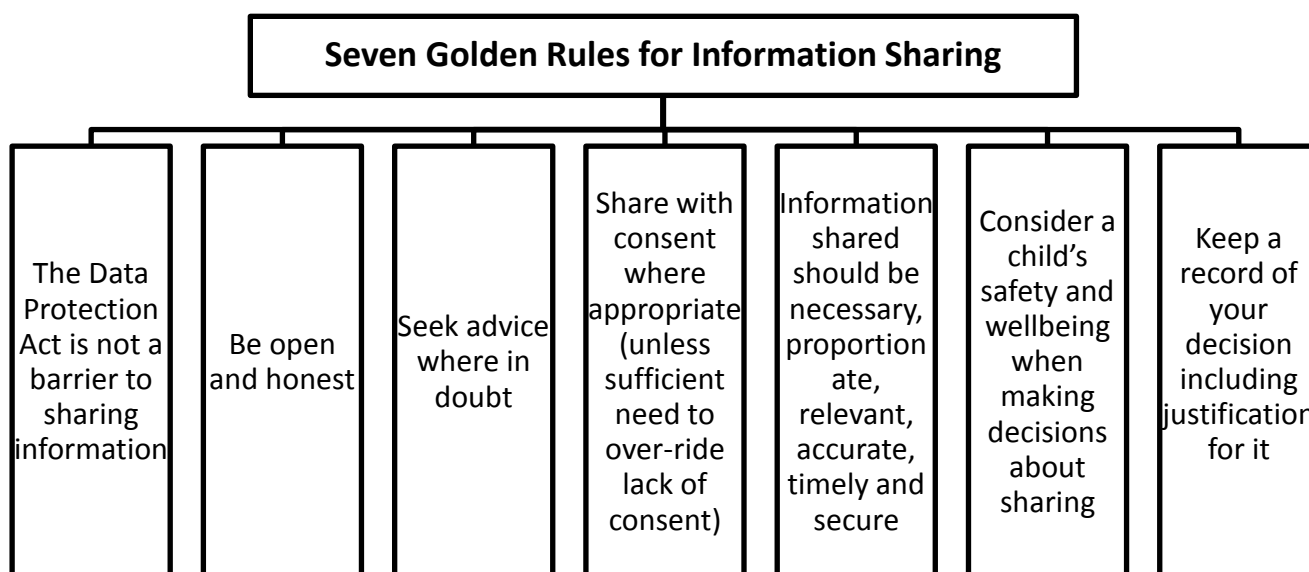


INFORMATION SHARING GUIDANCE FOR GENERAL PRACTICE



Decisions to share information can be as important as the duty to protect confidentiality

Consent for information sharing:

- Should be the first option, unless to do so would increase risk of harm to self or others. (See below)
- Should be discussed with children and families when they first engage with their service about information being shared
- Must be informed
- Can be explicit or implied
- Can be written or verbal
- Must be voluntary and not coerced
- Must be sought again if things change
- Can be withdrawn at any time
- Must be sought using clear accessible language
- Explain there are times when confidentiality cannot be maintained
- Must abide with relevant legislation, local policies and protocols

Sharing information without consent:

- For child protection purposes (section 47 investigation, care proceedings)
- If there is significant threat to life or serious harm to either the individual or others
- If urgent medical treatment is needed
- Where potential or actual criminal offences are involved and disclosure of information is required as part of legal or judicial proceedings
- Where you need to undertake statutory function

Ref: Crime and Disorder Act 1998

HM Government Information Sharing Guidance for Practitioners and Managers

RCGP Safeguarding Children Toolkit for General Practice 2014

Information: To share or not to Share, Government Response to the Caldecott Review, DH 2013