

MDRTB Clinical Advice Service

Fair processing information for patients

1. Who we are

We are the British Thoracic Society (BTS), a Charity which exists to improve standards of care for people who have respiratory diseases. This notice sets out how your data will be used by BTS. We are a controller over the data described in this notice, and if you have any queries regarding our use of your data, please contact us using the details at the bottom of this notice.

2. What information do we hold about you?

The BTS MDRTB Clinical Advice Service holds data on patients who are receiving treatment for Multi-Drug Resistant Tuberculosis. To provide our expert clinical advice service (for which there is no charge), your clinician will send to BTS: your date of birth, NHS, ETS and LTBR numbers (if available), sex, home postcode, details of your condition taken from your medical records and how you have responded to that treatment. We process your data for this reason because we have a legitimate interest to provide our expert clinical advice service (which is a platform for facilitating the provision of advice), and to further our charitable objectives. Also, your data will only be sent to us by your clinician if you have given explicit consent to take part in our expert clinical advice service.

We also receive data from Public Health England, who hold information on drug sensitivities and patient demographic information such as age, sex, co-morbidities and social risk factors. At the time you give your consent to participate in our expert clinical advice service, you are also given the opportunity to consent to Public Health England linking their data with ours. Linking your data in this way enables our clinical experts to be better informed when they review your case. Public Health England receives your NHS, ETS and LTBR numbers (if available) in order to link these two sets of data.

When participating in the expert clinical advice service, a panel of experts will review your anonymous case details and advise your clinician on proposed next steps for you. Your clinician may request advice from our panel of experts at any time after you originally provide your consent (as treatment may be ongoing for a number of months or years). You can withdraw your consent to participating in our clinical expert review panel at any time, either by contacting us or notifying your clinician.

3. How is your Data collected?

Clinicians collect your data from electronic and paper hospital records. These are entered onto a secure online data collection tool controlled by BTS and provided by our trusted external data storage providers, who store the data within the European Economic Area. Access to the data entry tool is securely controlled.

4. Research

Where you have provided your consent both to participate in the expert clinical advice service and for your information to be used in research, we use your data for research purposes to help others with similar medical conditions to you. This means that our researchers, as well as organisations we work with who are carrying out similar research, can analyse high volumes of data to obtain an overall picture of how patients are treated and how they respond to different treatments. Where possible, we fully anonymise your data before it is used for research purposes, and you can object to us using your data for research purposes at any time by contacting us. We never use any data which could directly identify you for research purposes, and only the team treating you at your hospital will ever

be able to see your identifiable data. We use your data in this way because it is necessary for reasons of public interest in the area of public health by allowing us to ensure high standards of quality and safety of health care.

5. How long will we use your data for?

Patient identifiable data items (NHS, ETS and LTBR numbers, date of birth and date of death (if relevant)) will be retained by us indefinitely. Treatment for this condition can take place over many years, and retention of your data enables our clinical advisors to refer back to past treatment to help your clinician and others in the future. Retention of this information over a long period of time is also important to ensure that research is robust and effective.

6. Your rights in connection with your Data

Under certain circumstances, by law you have the right to:

- **Request access** to your data (commonly known as a "subject access request"). This enables you to receive a copy of the data we hold about you and to check that we are lawfully processing it.
- **Request correction** of the data that we hold about you. This enables you to have any incomplete or inaccurate information we hold about you corrected.
- **Request erasure** of your data. This enables you to ask us to delete or remove data where there is no good reason for us continuing to process it. You also have the right to ask us to delete or remove your data where you have exercised your right to object to processing (see below).
- **Object to processing** of your data where we are relying on a legitimate interest (or those of a third party) and there is something about your particular situation which makes you want to object to processing on this ground. You also have the right to object where we are processing your data for direct marketing purposes, research or statistical purposes.
- **Request the restriction** of processing of your data. This enables you to ask us to suspend the processing of data about you, for example if you want us to establish its accuracy or the reason for processing it.
- **Request the transfer** of your data to another party.

Privacy law is often complicated, and whether these rights are available to you sometimes depends on the types of data we are handling, as well as why we are handling it. If you would like to exercise any of these rights, please contact us using the details at the bottom of this notice. You always have the right to lodge a complaint with us or the Information Commissioner's Office, the supervisory authority for data protection issues in England and Wales.

7. Feedback

We have worked hard to produce a short notice that clearly explains how your data is used.

Your feedback and suggestions on this notice are very welcome. If you feel that we have overlooked an important perspective or used language which you think we could improve, please let us know by using the contact details below.

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