**MESNES VIEW SURGERY**

**What is GDPR?**

GDPR stands for General Data Protection Regulations and is a new piece of legislation that will supersede the Data Protection Act. It will not only apply to the UK and EU; it covers anywhere in the world in which data about EU citizens is processed.

The GDPR is similar to the Data Protection Act (DPA) 1998 (which the practice already complies with), but strengthens many of the DPA’s principles. The main changes are:

Practice must comply with subject access requests

Where we need your consent to process data, this consent must be freely given, specific, informed and unambiguous

There are new, special protections for patient data

The Information Commissioner’s Office must be notified within 72 hours of a data breach

Higher fines for data breaches – up to 20 million euros.

**What is ‘patient data’?**

Patient data is information that relates to a single person, such as his/her diagnosis, name, age, earlier medical history etc.

**What is consent?**

Consent is permission from a patient – an individual’s consent is defined as *“any freely given specific and informed indication of his/her wishes by which the data subject signifies his/her agreement to personal data relating to him/her being processed”*

The changes in GDPR mean that we must get explicit permission from patients when using their data. This is to protect your right to privacy, and we may ask you to provide consent to do certain things, like contact you or record certain information about you for your clinical records.

Individuals also have the right to withdraw their consent at any time.

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