

SHARED PATIENT INFORMATION REGISTER IN THE REGION OF KYMENLAAKSO SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES (CAREA)

Patient information

Conditions and restrictions of use of general patient information

Good patient care requires that in conjunction with medical treatment, the health care personnel attending to a patient have access to **all necessary information** on the patient's health and examinations performed on the patient.

The use and disclosure of patient information between organisations always requires a **health care relationship** between the patient and the person who deals with the patient's information.

Patient information may only be used **to the extent required by medical treatment**. The use and disclosure of patient information between organisations are **monitored continuously** with respect to all patients and users of information by means of **log data**.

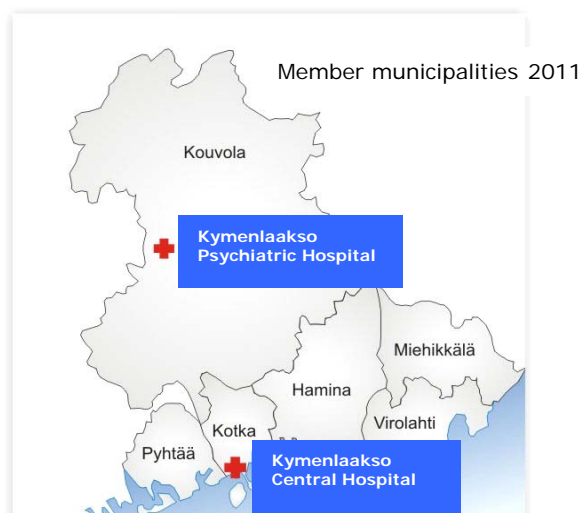
Patient information created in the care units of medical genetics and psychiatry is subject to **special protection**, and its use always requires a separate **specific user verification** before the information can be used.

Shared patient information register

The Finnish **Health Care Act**, which came into force on 1 May 2011, prescribes that the electronic patient records and patient record archives in basic health care (health centres) and special health care (central hospital) operating **in the region of the same hospital district** make up a **shared patient information register**. The patient information may be on paper or in computer systems, and the use of patient information may also concern information created before 1 May 2011. The patient records of occupational health care provided by a health centre also belong to the scope of the shared patient information register.

The shared patient information register in Carea's region is composed of the patient information in the following organisations of public health care:

Carea
 Hamina
 Kotka
 Kouvola
 Miehikkälä
 Pyhtää
 Virolahti



Moreover, information on home care by the following health centres in Carea's region belongs to the scope of the shared patient information register:

Hamina
Kotka
Kouvola
Miehikkälä - Virolahti
Pyhtää

Personnel attending to a patient can use such patient information contained in the patient information register which is essential in view of the care of the patient **unless the patient prohibits this specifically**. However, the use of the information requires that the patient has been informed of the use of the shared patient information register and of the possibility of **prohibiting** the use of the patient information. The information given to the patient on the register and the potential prohibition are recorded in the patient's case history in accordance with a separate guideline.

Patient's/citizen's right to restrict the use of shared patient information register

If the patient so wishes, the patient can prohibit the use of his/her patient information entirely in another unit belonging to the patient information register used within Carea's region. **The prohibition is valid until further notice, and it can be cancelled at any time.** Patient information restricted by the prohibition **must not be used even in extreme emergency**. However, the patient can draw up a separate **living will**, where the patient allows the disclosure of patient information covered by the prohibition for example when the patient is unconscious and needs immediate medical treatment.

The patient can give the prohibition in Carea's region as follows

The patient can give the prohibition orally or in writing during care contact or thereafter to a health care employee in an organisation belonging to the patient information register. The prohibition can be restricted on an organisational level, but not for example on the basis of specific medical specialities.

The patient can **give the prohibition and a related living will**, in which case the information prohibited by the patient earlier can be retrieved if the patient is admitted for treatment for example while unconscious.

If the patient has a **prohibition without a related living will**, no information on the patient may be retrieved from the regional register even if the patient is in a critical condition.

The patient can change the restrictions related to the prohibition without limitation.

Disclosure of patient information beyond the shared patient information register

The **disclosure of patient information** beyond the organisations belonging to the shared patient information register in Carea's region requires the **patient's consent** by virtue of the act on the status and rights of patients.

The consent can be given in writing, or orally, in which case the consent is **recorded in the patient records**. The patient can express his/her consent in other ways, too (for example, an injured patient nods his/her head), which is recorded in the patient records in the same way as an oral consent.

A written consent allowing the disclosure of information can concern all information on the patient, or it can be limited to certain information, such as care feedback during a certain care period. The patient has the **right to change the content** of the written consent at various stages of care.

Examples of organisations that do not belong to the shared patient information register in Carea's region. In other words, disclosure of patient information to these requires the patient's written consent:

- Hospital District of Helsinki and Uusimaa
- South Karelia District of Social and Health Services (Eksote)
- Private occupational health care
- Private clinics
- Private health care professionals
- Social welfare services

Further information on the shared patient information register

Further information on the shared patient information register and on practices in Carea's region is available from:

www.carea.fi

Ermo Haavisto, Medical Director

Legislation

Health Care Act 1326/2010 Section 9

Act on the electronic processing of customer information in social and health care 159/2007

Amendment of the act on customer information 1227/2010

Act on the status and rights of patients 785/1992

www.finlex.fi