



## **BELMONT ORTHODONTIC CENTRE**

**5a Belmont, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY1 1TE**

### **Records Management Policy**

Belmont Orthodontic Centre holds and maintains information about the business and its patients that is necessary for the efficient running of the practice and the effective provision of orthodontic care. This policy describes the information that must be kept, how it must be stored, archived and disposed of to ensure that the practice complies with the requirements of data protection legislation.

Belmont Orthodontic Centre's **Confidentiality policy** describes the need for all members of the dental team to keep patient information confidential and Belmont Orthodontic Centre's procedures for handling information about patients; it must be followed always. The arrangements for keeping information safe are described in the practice **Data Security Policy**, which includes the measures for physical and electronic security.

Belmont Orthodontic Centre's Privacy Notice for patients helps them understand how the practice uses and protects their personal information.

#### **Retaining information**

Information about the business and its patients is kept for no longer than required.

- **Patient records** are maintained and kept up to date while the individual remains a patient of Belmont Orthodontic Centre. When they cease to be a patient of the practice, their records are retained for **ten years** following their last visit to the practice or until age of 25, whichever is the longer.
- **Personnel and associate records** are maintained and kept up to date whilst the individual works at the practice as an employee or self-employed contractor. Following their departure from the practice their records are retained for **six years** from the date of

leaving the practice. Records relating to workplace accidents or injuries are retained indefinitely. Records for associates are kept for up to **eight years**.

- **Financial records** are retained for at least **six years**.
- **Business records**, including contracts with suppliers, are retained for at least **six years**.
- **Washer/disinfector logbooks and records** are maintained and kept for **not less than 2 years**

#### Secure storage

- All members of the team must protect information held by the Practice and store it securely. Information is only accessed on a need-to-know basis: where it is necessary to carry out required tasks; in the delivery of care to patients; or upon the direct instruction of a senior person within the practice.
- For records held electronically, access is password protected and restricted to those who, as part of their work duties, require the information. Electronic records are regularly backed-up by **Dr Philip Barton/Mrs Helen Walton** and the backups are stored off-site in a physically secure location.
- Non-electronic (paper) records are stored in a location that is not accessible to patients, visitors to the practice or other members of the public.
- Patient record cards are stored securely in lockable filing cabinets which are locked at the end of each working day and the keys are placed in a further small lockable cabinet.
- Financial information and personnel records are stored securely in lockable filing cabinets and the keys retained by **Mrs Helen Walton/Dr Philip Barton**

#### Archiving records

- Where records need to be retained but are no longer required on a day-to-day basis, they are archived and stored securely. Records will be stored in a way that ensures easy identification and retrieval. The final decision on archiving information is taken by **Mrs Helen Walton**.
- Electronic records that need to be retained but are not required on a day-to-day basis are, in the first instance, archived within the IT system. Where electronic storage space is at or near capacity, archived electronic data will be copied onto a suitable electronic format with copies stored securely at the practice premises and off-site.

#### Secure disposal of old records

- Records that are no longer required are disposed of securely by shredding, pulping or incineration. The services of a professional contractor will be used where necessary; a certificate of confidential destruction is obtained and retained by the practice as evidence of DPA compliance.
- Patient study models are disposed of as soon as they are no longer required, but must be retained for 10 years after the end of treatment, or up to the patient attaining the age of 25 years of age. The services of a professional contractor will be used where necessary; a

