

Why
do you
have
a CHI
number?

Everyone registered with a Scottish GP practice has their own unique Community Health Index (CHI) number.

But CHI is more than just a number.

It helps make sure information about your healthcare is not mixed up with someone else's. CHI also helps NHS staff access the information they need to provide you with the best possible care.

The NHS in Scotland has been using CHI numbers for 30 years, so they're nothing new.

What is new is that we're now making better use of CHI numbers by using them whenever possible. So you might now notice your number on your medical records or in correspondence sent to you from the NHS.

You don't need to memorise your CHI number.

By using the number, NHS staff provide a more joined-up service between all of our different departments.

How does CHI help me?

By making it easier for NHS staff to access the information they need about your healthcare.

Your CHI number

- Reduces the need to ask you the same questions again and again
- Helps to ensure that your medical information moves smoothly between different NHS departments
- Helps staff make more informed decisions about your healthcare
- Can help NHS staff identify you correctly in an emergency situation.

In summary

Everyone registered with a Scottish GP practice has a CHI number.

You don't need to memorise your CHI number.

Your CHI number is used by NHS staff to help provide you with the best care possible.

Your CHI number may be included on other documents where appropriate. For example, the new Citizen's Entitlement Card will carry the CHI number.

If you wish, you may request that the number is removed from your card.