

## TVS LHCR FAQs

### Data Retention – How long is your data kept?

The Thames Valley & Surrey Care Record comprises a set of information about you from the health and care organisations that provide care for you locally.

The records of those health and care organisations are subject to retention periods set out in documents such as the NHS Records Management Codes of Practice - <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/looking-after-information/data-security-and-information-governance/codes-of-practice-for-handling-information-in-health-and-care/records-management-code-of-practice-for-health-and-social-care-2016>

As the data on the Thames Valley & Surrey Care Record comes from local organisational systems, the data will be kept for the same amount of time that it is kept on those local systems.

As a guide, the following are examples of some of the retention periods:

- **Adult health records not covered by specific conditions** – 8 years after discharge or patient last seen, review and if no longer needed, destroy.
- **Adult social care records** – 8 years after end of care or client last seen, review and if no longer needed, destroy.
- **Children's health records** – 25<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup> birthday, review and if no longer needed, destroy.
- **Obstetric records, maternity records and antenatal and post-natal records** – 25 years after discharge or client last seen, review and if no longer needed, destroy.
- **Mental Health records** – 20 years after discharge or patient last seen, or 8 years after the patient has died, review and if no longer needed, destroy.
- **GP patient records** – 10 years after death, review and if no longer needed, destroy.