

Benefits of SCR

SCRs have many benefits for patients and healthcare staff in urgent and emergency care settings (such as out-of-hours GP services and Emergency Departments). SCRs provide access to health information that has previously been unavailable, enabling authorised healthcare staff to make informed clinical decisions.

Benefits to patients

- SCRs are accessible to authorised healthcare staff treating patients in an emergency in England. This will be particularly useful when a patient cannot give information (for example if they are unconscious) or when they are away from home and are unable to see their own GP.
- Patient care can be supported by healthcare staff having faster access to their medical information and patients may not be required to repeat information to different NHS staff treating them. For example, in a hospital setting, healthcare staff will be able to access a patient's SCRs immediately enabling faster assessment.
- SCRs can support better, safer prescribing of medication for patients by providing up to date information on a patient's allergies, previous adverse reactions and medications.
- SCRs will enable vulnerable patient groups and those patients that are unable to communicate well with healthcare staff. For example, a non-English speaking patient that could struggle to communicate their condition would no longer be disadvantaged as their SCR would be available to the treating clinician.
- Additional information, such as end of life care plans and relevant diagnoses, may be available to inform clinical care where it is appropriate.

Case Study

A patient was admitted to the elderly care ward with a urinary tract infection. It had not been possible for the patient to bring a supply or list of her regular medication, as she had arrived via ambulance.

The patient was able to tell doctors that she took Stalevo – a medication to treat the symptoms of Parkinson's disease – but was unable to say how much and how often. After **viewing the patient's SCR**, a Pharmacy Technician was able to confirm the dosage, frequency and timing of each of the patient's medications. For patients with Parkinson's Disease it is vital that they receive their medicines on time, every time.

If the SCR had not been available, it is likely that the medical team would have missed important parts of the patient's medical history, and the patient may have missed important doses of their medication.

Medway Maritime Hospital

- SCRs contain details of a patient's key health information including medications, allergies and adverse reactions. This enables clinicians to feel more confident to treat patients.
- Medicines reconciliation (where a patient's prescribed medication is checked against current medications to ensure there is no conflict) will become more efficient in hospital pharmacies as pharmacists will be able to immediately refer to the SCR in order to reconcile the medications prescribed to the patient.

Taken from HSCIC SCR Webpages:

<http://systems.hscic.gov.uk/scr/staff/aboutscr/benefits/index.html>