

You AND Your DOCTOR

If you are **HIV positive** then it's a good idea if all the health professionals involved in the delivery of your health care are aware of your HIV status, including your GP (general practitioner). This is particularly important if you are on medication as your GP should know about possible drug interactions if they are prescribing medication for you. In our experience many HIV positive people choose to disclose to their doctor and are happy with that decision.

Your GP should understand the basics of HIV, and is there to treat all non-HIV related health issues that you may have.

If your GP wants advice on your health in relation to your HIV then they can, with your permission, speak to your HIV consultant. Your GP also has access to training and information on drug interactions. He or she can also speak to us at George House Trust for advice on non-medical issues.

Disclosing your HIV status to your GP is particularly important because of the changes that are happening within HIV clinical services.

Until now, HIV consultants have sometimes prescribed medication which is not directly related to HIV. They will no longer be able to do this, and you will now need to see your GP for any non-HIV related medical issues.

From December 2008 HIV consultants will only prescribe medication for HIV, and drugs to counteract the side effects of the HIV medication.

There may be other issues that arise when you are thinking of disclosing your HIV status to your GP.

George House Trust is there to support you in the choices that you make. Please contact the service team if you have any questions. Please feel free to give a copy of this leaflet to your GP.

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0161 274 4499
www.ght.org.uk

Every patient has the right to expect a confidential service from their GP, who is subject to the same guidelines as your HIV health care professionals. You should not be treated differently because of your HIV status. The majority of GPs will understand this. However some people may worry about confidentiality when disclosing their HIV status. If you are concerned, you can speak to the practice manager and ask to see your surgery's confidentiality policies before discussing anything. You can ask them how they store sensitive information. You may want to show your GP this leaflet. You can also talk to an Adviser at George House Trust and we'll offer you any support we can.

In any situation where you don't feel happy with how you have been treated you can speak to your local Patient Advice and Liaison Service. You also have the right to move to another GP practice if you are unhappy with the care you receive.

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