

# Data Quality: Why bother??

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# Introduction

- Danger of this talk being the statement of the b\*\*\*\*\*g obvious
- Not much point in taking great precautions over inaccurate data
- Legal and professional duty to keep accurate notes
- Appendix A to the HSC 1999/053
- GMC and NMC obligations

# Who will see your records?

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- Who am I writing this for?
  - Other professionals
  - Patient
  - Family
  - Hostile lawyers
  - GMC/NMC
  - Trust Management on a complaint

# Basic pointers to accurate recording

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- Legibility
- Presentation
- Logical order
- Abbreviations
- Avoid humour and sarcasm
- Use the first person
- Take a copy

# When you have finished the record..

- Sign it
- File it... securely
  - Not on the back seat of the car
- Keep its contents confidential
  - Don't talk about it inappropriately (in the pub)
- Don't dispose of it too early
  - I'm sure I made a record at the time...

# What if you learn later data is inaccurate

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- Don't be afraid to correct it
  - Just because it was later proved to be inaccurate does not mean it was wrong at the time
- Don't hide the fact that the original has been corrected
  - No one is perfect
  - Better to correct than deceive.