

Pre-consultation briefing

Developing a single national GP dataset

Objectives of the briefing sessions

Briefing sessions have been planned with key stakeholders / organisations to discuss the consultation approach, to share valuable insight in advance of the public consultation and to help us to understand the patient, carer and service user perspective.

The briefing will therefore provide you with an opportunity to:

- Hear about the benefits of establishing a single national GP dataset
- Ask questions about the consultation process
- Understand the changes to enhance the information collected

Background

An initial list of codes, to be extracted from GP practices, was defined by NHS England and the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) in 2012. This dataset was planned for use during the care.data Pathfinder stage. For further information see <https://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/tsd/care-data/>

The agreed proposed list of codes was then considered by a subset of the Joint GP IT Committee (comprising representatives from both the BMA and RCGP) on the basis that it was appropriate for commissioning purposes and this was then accepted by the General Practice Extraction Service Independent Advisory Group (GPES IAG), which 'recommended to proceed' in February 2013¹

The codes that will be extracted from GP practices include coded information about referrals, prescriptions and health information such as diagnoses. These diagnoses relate to health conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, stroke, cancers (including bowel, breast, and cervical), chronic liver disease, chronic kidney disease.

The consultation

A compelling case to develop a single national GP dataset is being developed with the National Information Board work stream 2.2 and care.data programme hearing from a broad range of stakeholders that this initial care.data GP dataset requires further review.

Therefore NHS England and the HSCIC are preparing a public consultation to develop a single national GP dataset that meets the full range of needs for purposes beyond direct care.

Briefings, stakeholder engagement and pre-consultation activity will be targeted towards key stakeholders, including those representing the voluntary and community sector and forums representing patients, carers and service users.

This activity will enable open dialogue and a greater understanding of the views of the patient and carers for whom any information may be collected and will gather the views of those likely to use the information.

¹ [http://www.hscic.gov.uk/media/11468/Customer-Requirement-Summary/pdf/care.data Customer Requirement Summary - Feb 2013 %28NIC-178106-MLSWX%29.pdf%29](http://www.hscic.gov.uk/media/11468/Customer-Requirement-Summary/pdf/care.data%20Customer%20Requirement%20Summary%20-%20Feb%202013%20%28NIC-178106-MLSWX%29.pdf%29)

Supporting information:

- A public consultation is to be held to develop a single national GP dataset, which can then be securely connected with other health information, and make it available to those who plan NHS services, or support the NHS to make services better.
- This information will be used for purposes beyond direct care. This is about helping to improve NHS services, for example to improve early diagnosis and treatment of illnesses, check that health and social care services are doing a good job and providing the right services at the right time, and support researchers to develop new medicines and treatments.
- In its initial stage, information from GP practices will be collected and securely connected with hospital data, but in time it is anticipated that information from all places where people receive care will be added.
- The information will be collected by the Health and Social Care Information Centre, the national body appointed by government to collect and analyse information about health and care in England.
- NHS numbers, date of births, gender and postcodes will be collected in order to connect the information held by GP Practices to information from other parts of the NHS where someone has received treatment. Once information has been connected, the information that could identify someone will be removed or reduced to make them less identifiable, for example, using age, instead of date of birth.
- In addition information from GPs about a patient's prescriptions, referrals and diagnoses will also be collected. GPs already record this information using a series of codes. Only this coded information will be collected.
- Once the information is connected together it will be shared with those who can use it to improve health and care, including researchers, medical charities and other organisations that help the NHS to improve its services.
- NHS England and the Health and Social Care Information Centre will not collect any excessive information or data that cannot be used to benefit the health system.
- Any general notes, such as details of conversations between GPs and patients will not be collected.
- Gathering information about care provided across the nation will allow us to see what is happening to patients as they travel through the healthcare system. This will help to:
 - diagnose serious conditions sooner;
 - give everyone access to high quality care, whoever they are, wherever they live; and
 - understand which groups are most at risk of developing certain diseases and conditions
- NHS England and the Health and Social Care Information Centre would like to hear from as many people as possible, with regards to developing this single national GP dataset.