

Objection to Data sharing

NHS England is commissioning a modern data service from the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) on behalf of the entire health and social care system. Known as *care.data*, this programme will build on the existing data services and expand it to provide linked data, that will eventually cover all care settings, both in and outside of hospital.

Under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, NHS England has the power to direct the HSCIC to collect information from all providers of NHS care, including general practices.

The General Practice Extraction Service (GPES) will be used to extract GP data each month. Initially the data will cover the period from April 2013 onwards. The identifiers to be extracted are: NHS number, date of birth, postcode, and gender which will allow patients' GP data to be linked to their hospital data. No free text will be extracted, only coded information about referrals, NHS prescriptions and other clinical data.

If you are happy for your information to be shared you do not need to do anything. There is no form to fill in and nothing to sign and you can change your mind at any time.

If you have concerns or are not happy for your information to be shared, speak to your GP practice.

Recording a patient objection

GPs are best placed to manage patients' objections in relation to how PCD are processed. GPs can control the extraction of such PCD by entering appropriate codes into the GP record. The default position for all patients is that PCD will leave the practice where there is a legal basis; i.e. under the powers of the HSCA or a section 251 approval.

No codes need to be entered in the record, these extracts will happen automatically.

What kinds of information sharing can I object to?

There are two types of information sharing you can object to:

- You can object to information containing data that identifies you from leaving your GP practice. This type of objection will prevent the identifiable information held in your GP record from being sent to the HSCIC secure environment. It will also prevent those who have gained special legal approval from using your health information for research.
- You can also object to **any** information containing data that identifies you from leaving the HSCIC secure environment. This includes information from all places you receive NHS care, such as hospitals. If you do not object, information that identifies you will only leave the HSCIC in limited circumstances where there is special legal approval, for example for medical research (see FAQ 9). If you object, confidential information will not leave the HSCIC and be used in this way, except in very rare circumstances for example in the event of a civil emergency.

Where a patient objects, GPs should use the following codes to record the objection:

- **Prevent PCD leaving the GP practice** – where a patient objects to PCD leaving the GP practice use the '**Dissent from secondary use of GP patient identifiable data**' code (Read v2: 9Nu0 or CTV3: XaZ89 or SNOMED CT 827241000000103).

- **Prevent PCD leaving the HSCIC** – where a patient wishes to prevent PCD gathered from any health and social care setting from leaving the HSCIC use the '**Dissent from disclosure of personal confidential data by Health and Social Care Information Centre**' code (Read v2: 9Nu4 or CTV3: XaaVL or SNOMED CT 8815610 00000100).

Patients can change their minds and reverse a previous objection in which case the following codes should be used:

- **Remove the block on PCD leaving the GP practice** by using the '**Withdraw dissent from secondary use of GP patient identifiable data**' code (Read v2: 9Nu1 or CTV3: XaZ8A or SNOMED CT 827261000000102).

- **Remove the block on PCD leaving the HSCIC** by using the '**Dissent withdrawn from disclosure of personal confidential data by Health and Social Care Information Centre**' code (Read v2: 9Nu5 or CTV3: XaaVM or SNOMED CT 8815810 00000109).

Patient Name

Patient date of Birth

Patient Signature