

Data Provision Notice

Ambulance Data Set (ADS) Pilot – EPR

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Background

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 (the Act) gives the Health and Social Care Information Centre, known as [NHS Digital](#) and hereafter referred to by this name, statutory powers, under section 259(1)(a), to require data from health or social care bodies, or organisations that provide publicly funded health or adult social care in England, where it has been Directed to establish an information system by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care or NHS England, or as part of a Mandatory Request from another organisation.

The data, as specified by NHS Digital in this Data Provision Notice (DPN), is required to support a Direction from NHS England to NHS Digital. Therefore, organisations that are in scope of the notice are legally required, under section 259(5) of the Act, to provide the data in the form and manner specified below.

The Ambulance Data Set is being piloted in two parts. The first part of the pilot related to the data which is collected by the Ambulance Services' Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) systems and is now complete. The second part of the pilot relates to data which is collected by the Ambulance Services' Electronic Patient Record (EPR) systems and this DPN is to formalise the requirement for the data to support that pilot activity.

Purpose of the collection

The NHS Long-Term Plan 2019 sets out a commitment to develop an ambulance data set to:

“...bring together data from all ambulance services nationally in order to follow and understand patient journeys from the ambulance service into other urgent and emergency healthcare settings”.

The Ambulance Data Set project seeks to deliver that long-term plan commitment. The project is owned by NHS England, operating with the authority of the Urgent and Emergency Care Transformation programme under the title of the 'Joint Ambulance Improvement Programme'.

In order to satisfy the ambition described in the Long-Term Plan, the Ambulance Data Set must be capable of being linked to the Emergency Care Data Set (ECDS).

Benefits of the collection

The pilot will assess whether the Ambulance Data Set can be used to enable Ambulance Services to identify variation and best practice to advance both clinical and operational delivery at a local and national level and improve patient care through secondary use analysis (i.e. not for the direct care of the patient).

NHS England requires accurate data about ambulance dispatch (data from Electronic Patient Record (EPR) systems). This includes activity undertaken by the English Ambulance Service providers, where the data required is as defined in the Ambulance Data Set Data Content Specification.

Note that the [CAD data has now moved to live, with that DPN published separately](#). This DPN only supports the ongoing EPR pilot.

NHS England anticipates that the collection of the Ambulance Data Set will support the following benefits:

- Greater ability to demonstrate the value of Ambulance Services

- Better understanding of call/incident, response and patient level data, especially where linked with wider data sets (e.g., ECDS)
- Support research and development of clinical care delivered by Ambulance Services
- Support clinical feedback and supervision mechanisms
- Support National Tariff processes
- Support benchmarking of Ambulance Service Activity
- Monitoring and evaluation of Health or Ambulance Improvement Programmes
- Support understanding of the health needs of the population served by Ambulance Services.

Legal basis for the collection, analysis, publication and dissemination

Under sections 254(1) and (6) of the Act, NHS Digital has been Directed by NHS England to establish and operate a system for the collection and analysis of the Ambulance Data Set. Ambulance Services in England that agree to participate in the EPR pilot collection will flow their pilot data to NHS Digital.

The Ambulance Services Data Set Directions 2022 are published [here](#).

This information is required by NHS Digital under section 259(1)(a) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

In line with section 259(5) of the Act, all organisations in scope, in England, must comply with the requirement and provide information to NHS Digital in the form, manner and period specified in this Data Provision Notice.

This Notice is issued in accordance with the procedure published as part of NHS Digital duty under section 259(8).

Publication

NHS Digital is directed not to publish any information obtained by complying with the Ambulance Services Data Set Directions 2022.

Dissemination

In accordance with section 261(2)(e) of the 2012 Act, despite the prohibition on publication, NHS Digital may disseminate under section 261(1) of the 2012 Act the information it has obtained by complying with these Directions to NHS England where section 261(1) would otherwise not apply due to the restriction on publication, and where it would be lawful for NHS Digital to do so.

Under section 261(3)(a) of the 2012 Act, NHS Digital is directed to use its discretionary powers under section 261(4) of the 2012 Act to disseminate the information collected under the Directions to the Ambulance Service that provided the information for the purposes of data quality and validation.

NHS Digital is directed not to exercise its powers under section 261(1) and 261(4) of the 2012 Act other than to disseminate information to NHS England and to the Ambulance Services that provided the information where it would be lawful for NHS Digital to do so. Therefore, there will be no other dissemination of the pilot data.

Access to the data will be via the NHS Digital Data Access Environment and will be administered NHS Digital's Data Access Request Service (DARS). Where relevant this will

be with oversight by the Independent Group Advising on the Release of Data (IGARD). This will include establishing a valid legal basis for any given dissemination.

Organisations receiving data from NHS Digital are documented in the NHS Digital Data Release Register: <https://digital.nhs.uk/services/data-access-request-service-dars/register-of-approved-data-releases>

Persons consulted

Consultation has been undertaken by NHS England and involved the following:

Project and Content Consultation (06/07/21)

	ADS Project Board	Clinical Content Development Group	ADS Events	Information provided to/ Attendance at meetings	Ad Hoc Correspondence
East of England Ambulance Service		X	X		
East Midlands Ambulance Service		X	X		
Isle of Wight Ambulance Service		X	X		
London Ambulance Service	X	X	X		
North East Ambulance Service		X	X		
North West Ambulance Service	X	X	X		
South Central Ambulance Service		X	X		
South East Coast Ambulance Service		X	X		
South Western Ambulance Service		X	X		
West Midlands Ambulance Service	X	X	X		
Yorkshire Ambulance Service	X	X	X		
AACE Chief Executives Group	X				
Ambulance Leadership Forum (ALF)	X			X	
National Medical Directors Group (NASMED)	X		X	X	
National Director of Operations Group (NDOG)			X	X	
National Heads of IM&T Group			X	X	

	ADS Project Board	Clinical Content Development Group	ADS Events	Information provided to/ Attendance at meetings	Ad Hoc Correspondence
National Head of Communications Group (NACOM)			X	X	
Ambulance Lead Paramedics Group (ALPG)		X		X	
National Ambulance Information Group (NAIG)	X	X	X	X	
National Ambulance Urgent and Emergency Care Group (NAUECG)				X	
National Ambulance Service Clinical Quality Group (NASCCG)				X	
National Heads of Information Governance				X	X
National Heads of Emergency Operations Centre Group (NHoEoC)			X	X	
AACE Clinical Coding Review Group		X	X	X	
College of Paramedics (CoP)	X	X	X	X	
Ambulance Medical Priority Dispatch System (AMPDS) Representative	X				
NHS Pathways Team (NHS Digital)					X
NHS England/NHS Improvement Performance Analysis Team		X	X		
NHS England/NHS Improvement Strategic Analysis Team				X	X
NHS England/NHS Improvement Data Analytics and Insight Service	X			X	X
NHS England/NHS Improvement Information Governance				X	X
NHS England/Improvement Communications Team	X				
Avoidable Conveyance Steering Group				X	
Ambulance Transformation Forum	X			X	
Clinical Quality Indicators Sub-Group	X	X		X	

	ADS Project Board	Clinical Content Development Group	ADS Events	Information provided to/ Attendance at meetings	Ad Hoc Correspondence
National Ambulance Transformation Monthly Update Meeting				X	
National Ambulance Commissioner Network (NACN)	X			X	
Model Hospital Team	X				X
Mental Health Steering Group	X			X	
Patient Level Information and Costing System (PLICS)					X
National Ambulance Strategic Partnership Forum (NASPF)				X	
Professional Record Standards Body (PRSB)				X	
Sheffield School of Health and Related Research (SchARR)				X	X
Air Ambulances UK				X	X
RNLI				X	X
Commissioning Support Units (CSU)/Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs)					X
Public Health England				X	X
Royal College of Midwives					X
Specialised Commissioning (NHSEI)					X
Pricing Team (NHSEI)					X
Internal review by NHS Digital Teams: Data Model & Dictionary Terminology & Classifications Delivery Data Set Development Service Data Standards Assurance Service Data Alliance Partnership Board Secondary Care Analysis				X	X

	ADS Project Board	Clinical Content Development Group	ADS Events	Information provided to/ Attendance at meetings	Ad Hoc Correspondence
DPO & IG Compliance PLICS					
Northern Ireland Ambulance Service				X	X
Scottish Ambulance Service				X	X
Welsh Ambulance Service				X	X
Sheffield Emergency Care Forum					X
Lay Advice for Diabetes and Endocrine Research (LADDER) Panel					X
Online Advisory Panel					X
Independent Cancer Patient's Voice					X
Yorkshire and Humber Consumer Research Panel (YHCRP)					X
Stroke & Aphasia PPI panel					X
Across the Care Group Panel for Combined Community Acute Care Group (CCAG)					X

Scope of the collection

Under section 259(1)(a) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, this Notice is served in accordance with the procedure published as part of the NHS Digital duty under section 259(8) on the Ambulance Services taking part in the Ambulance Data Set EPR pilot.

In line with the national data opt-out operational policy guidance, national data opt-outs will NOT apply to the submission of Ambulance Data Set EPR pilot data to NHS Digital by the Ambulance Services participating in the EPR pilot, as the data collection is legally required under section 259 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

National data opt-outs will be applied to any dissemination of data collected via this DPN, including any products derived from such data, in line with the national data opt-out operational policy guidance: <https://digital.nhs.uk/services/national-data-opt-out-programme/operational-policy-guidance-document>

Any dissemination of such data by NHS Digital will be subject to robust controls via the Data Access Request Service (DARS) and scrutiny from the Independent Group Advising on the Release of Data (IGARD) as necessary: <https://digital.nhs.uk/services/data-access-request-service-dars>

Restricted data (including Legally Restricted)

Legal restrictions must be applied to the processing of Ambulance Data Set pilot data including the exclusion of patient information relating to In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) and gender recognition where this information can identify the data subject:

- NHS Digital MUST NOT collect personal information about legally restricted terms relating to In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) or Gender Recognition in line with the restrictions imposed by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 (as amended by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008) or the Gender Recognition Act 2004.
- In order to comply with the above Acts, any records containing procedure codes relating to IVF or Gender reassignment MUST be anonymised at source, with all patient identifiers removed, prior to submission to NHS Digital.
- The latest list of anonymous and restricted codes which MUST be applied is available below and through any update made by NHS Digital to the national list of Legally Restricted Codes, see: [Legally restricted codes](#).
- Any records containing these diagnosis or procedure codes which NHS Digital inadvertently receives will be automatically anonymised within Data Processing Services (DPS).

Under section 259(5) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 the organisations specified in the above Scope must comply with the Form, Manner and Period requirements below.

Form of the collection

Activity to be submitted

Ambulance Data Set EPR pilot data must be submitted to NHS Digital in accordance with the data content pilot requirements available here: [Ambulance Data Set \(ADS\) FHIR Bundle Implementation Guide](#)). As the activity is at pilot stage, the data content requirements may be subject to change.

Manner of the collection

Data items must be flowed daily (including weekends and statutory holidays) between 03:00 and 06:00 from the Ambulance Service's Data Warehouse to the Ambulance Analytics API hosted on the NHS Digital API Management Platform.

This DPN covers the flow of EPR pilot items. Ambulance Services involved in the EPR pilot will continue to send a single file, meeting the FHIR Specification during the EPR part of the pilot (as also to be sent by Ambulance Services not involved in the EPR pilot). In addition, Ambulance Services involved in the EPR pilot will send the piloted EPR extension as a separate file containing both EPR pilot and [CAD live data](#).

These two files will be distinguished from one another by Meta tags, so that they can be entered into different processing pipelines and enter different NHS Digital Data Access Environment databases, as well as assisting cleardown of pilot data. The files will arrive at NHS Digital via the same API pipeline into the Ambulance ingest database.

Period of the collection

NHS Digital will collect, and therefore Ambulance Services involved in the EPR pilot may flow, Ambulance Data Set EPR pilot data in accordance with the [Directions](#), from the date of this DPN until NHS Digital is instructed by NHS England that the pilot is complete.

Data quality

NHS England will assess the EPR pilot data to help enable the design of the data quality standards that will be applied in live service should the pilot prove successful.

Burden of the collection

Steps taken by NHS Digital to minimise the burden of collection

Premised on the assumption of a successful pilot, the Ambulance Data Set will support the reporting of ambulance activity from all emergency Ambulance Service providers in England to meet a wide range of national and local requirements, and as such, will reduce the need for separate data flows (see list in Benefits section above).

In seeking to minimise the data collection burden imposed on others, in line with sections 253 (2a) and 265(3) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, NHS Digital has an assessment process to validate and challenge the level of burden incurred through introducing new information standards, collections and data extractions.

This assurance is carried out by the Data Standards and Assurance Service (DSAS) which assures burden assessment evidence provided as part of the overarching Data Alliance Partnership Board (DAPB) process. The DAPB, acting under authority of the Secretary of State, oversees the development, assurance and acceptance of information standards, data collections and data extractions for the health and social care system in England.

Detailed burden assessment findings

This DPN relates to pilot collection of data and there is no requirement to undertake burden assessment of collections during a pilot or discovery stage. However, there is an expectation that the live data set will contribute to an overall reduction in burden, but this remains to be tested and assessed as part of the pilot process.

For further information

www.digital.nhs.uk

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