

Data Provision Notice

SGSS and SARI Watch

Information Asset Owner: Bethan Thomas (SGSS) / Kimberly Watson (SARI Watch)

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Background

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 (the Act) gives the Health and Social Care Information Centre, now 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.

The data, as specified by NHS Digital in this published Data Provision Notice, is required to support the Covid-19 Public Health Directions 2020, from the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care 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.

Purpose of the collection

The Secretary of State has directed NHS Digital to collect and analyse data in connection with COVID-19 to support the Secretary of State's response to COVID-19 and support various COVID-19 purposes, including those set out in the COVID-19 Public Health Directions 2020, 17 March 2020 as amended (COVID-19 Direction). NHS Digital is directed to do this where either requested or as NHS Digital reasonably considers to be necessary to achieve COVID-19 purposes as part of the COVID-19 co-ordinated response.

The United Kingdom Health Security Agency (UKHSA), an executive agency of the Department of Health and Social Care, has requested that NHS Digital collects and analyses:

- Demographic and diagnostic information from laboratory test reports for patients tested for the suspected and confirmed causative agent for COVID-19, as recorded in the UKHSA Second Generation Surveillance System (SGSS).
- Demographic, risk factor, treatment, and outcome information for patients admitted to hospital with a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis, as recorded in the UKHSA Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) Watch surveillance system (SARI Watch) (formerly known as COVID-19 Hospitalisations in England Surveillance System (CHESS)).

UKHSA fulfils the Secretary of State's statutory duties to protect health and address health inequalities and executes the Secretary of State's power to promote the health and wellbeing of the nation.

The SGSS and SARI Watch data are to be collected for the purpose of direct care, service monitoring, planning and research in response to the spread of COVID-19 in the UK, including for the following purposes identified in the COVID-19 Direction:

- Understanding information about patient access to health services and adult social care services as a direct or indirect result of COVID-19 and the availability and capacity of those services
- Monitoring and managing the response to COVID-19 by health and social care bodies and the Government, including providing information to the public about COVID-19 and

its effectiveness, and information about capacity, medicines, equipment, supplies, services and the workforce within the health services and adult social care services

- Research and planning in relation to COVID-19, such as providing COVID-19 diagnosis information through the NHS Digital population cohort health event notification service.

A historic and thereafter daily feed of SGSS and SARI Watch is to be collected.

Benefits of the collection

The collection of both sets of data is to:

- Provide a clear picture of the number of patients diagnosed with COVID-19 which will support capacity planning
- Aid the monitoring and managing of the response to COVID-19 by health and social care bodies and the Government, including monitoring the capacity and number of tests undertaken by geography and the results of those tests
- Assist in the provision of information to the public about COVID-19
- Support a more detailed analysis of treatment and outcomes in COVID-19 patients
- Enable the data to be linked to other data obtained by NHS Digital as part of its statutory functions, including demographic information, hospital activity and civil registration information to enable better analysis, research and insights in relation to COVID-19, including its causes and treatments.

Legal basis for the collection, analysis, publication, and dissemination

NHS Digital has been directed by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care under section 254 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012; to establish and operate a system for the collection and analysis of the information specified for this service. A copy of the Direction is published here <https://digital.nhs.uk/about-nhs-digital/corporate-information-and-documents/directions-and-data-provision-notice/secretary-of-state-directions/covid-19-public-health-directions-2020>.

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 England that are within the scope of this Data Provision Notice, as identified below under Health and Social Care Bodies within the scope of the collection, 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's duty under section 259(8) of the Act.

Compliance with Common Law Duty of Confidentiality is by Legal Obligation by virtue of the above Direction under section 254 of the 2012 Act.

GDPR Compliance for Collection and Analysis is under the following Articles:

- Article 6(1)(c) – Legal Obligation – by virtue of above Direction under s254 of 2012 Act.
- Article 9(2)(g) – substantial public interest, plus Part 2 Sched 1 DPA18, para 6 statutory and governmental purpose re Direction.

Article 14 of GDPR applies in relation to transparency as data is not collected directly from the data subject and the Fair Processing Notice will be updated in line with this Article.

National Data Opt-out does not apply to this collection as the data is required for direct care purposes. If it is used for purposes beyond direct care and as part of the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic, this is justified by it being for the public good. Further information on the National Data Opt-out can be found here:

<https://digital.nhs.uk/services/national-data-opt-out>

In accordance with a request from UKHSA, NHS Digital will not publish information collected from SGSS and SARI Watch or based on analysis of SARI Watch and SGSS data alone, without first obtaining consent to do so from UKHSA.

NHS Digital may publish information and analysis derived from linking the SARI Watch and SGSS information to other sources of information held by NHS Digital.

NHS Digital will only disseminate SARI Watch or SGSS data collected from UKHSA where the information is linked to other information controlled by NHS Digital, with the exception of information recorded in SGSS for residents of the Devolved Administrations which may be disseminated directly by NHS Digital to the relevant Devolved Administration Public Health Agency.

Parties consulted

Following receipt of a direction to establish a system to collect the SGSS and SARI Watch, NHS Digital has, as required under section 258 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, consulted with the following parties:

- NHSX (now part of NHS England and NHS Improvement)
- Public Health England (PHE) (now UK Health Security Agency)

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 following organisations:

- UK Health Security Agency

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

Form of the collection

The collection will contain two distinct data sets.

SGSS

NHS Digital requires a one-time historic feed for all daily SGSS collections dating from the outset of the service to the start of this collection, as well as all future daily collections. The data in question relates solely to all laboratory testing for COVID-19. This must encompass all positive, negative, and void laboratory testing records for COVID-19, including all duplicate records for any individual patient. The data set will be composed of:

- Test Identifier (e.g. barcode) and Patient identity
- Laboratory and requestor details
- Patient testing details and results
- Deduplication identifier.

SARI Watch

NHS Digital requires a one-time historic feed for all daily SARI Watch (formerly CHESS) collections dating from 1 January 2020 to the start of this collection, as well as all future daily collections. The data in question relates to hospital admissions to ICU and HDU as a result of COVID-19 only. The data set will be composed of:

- Patient identity
- Hospital and laboratory details
- Anti-viral treatment details
- Patient outcome details.

Manner of the collection

SGSS

The SGSS data will be collected daily via the NHS Digital Message Exchange for Social Care and Health (MESH). Once collected, the data will be stored in the NHS Digital Data Processing Service (DPS) in line with the COVID-19 Direction. The SGSS data will be collected as two distinct collections:

- A daily collection of all SGSS England COVID-19 tests i.e. all non-deduplicated positive, negative, and void tests across all NHS Test and Trace Pillars 1 and 4 - this may take the form of repeated cumulative collections or a complete and deltas collection across each day
- The continuance of the existing daily collection of first positive SGSS England COVID-19 tests - this will maintain the form of the daily 8am collection and the cycle of delta updates each day and contains Pillars 1, 2 and 4.

SARI Watch

The SARI Watch data will be collected once per day via MESH. Once collected, the data will be stored in the NHS Digital Data Processing Service (DPS) in line with the COVID-19 Direction.

Period of the collection

The collection of both SGSS and SARI Watch data will commence on or around the 6th April 2020, as agreed with UKHSA, and will continue until the expiry of the COVID-19 Direction or earlier if NHS Digital issues a notice to cease the collection.

Data to be collected

SGSS

The specification for the SGSS data set is as set out in; https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/739854/PHE_Laboratory_Reporting_Guidelines.pdf, and as summarised below.

Data items that must be provided

- Reporting Lab
- Patient identification - Surname & forename, Hospital Number and NHS Number ¹
- Date of birth, if not known then age
- Sex
- Organism
- Specimen type
- Specimen date
- Group ID for deduplication ²
- Barcode
- Result of the test (positive / negative / void)

Notes

1. Although for patient identification the SGSS specification stipulates that only one of surname and initial, Hospital Number or NHS Number are mandatory, to enable accurate linkage with other NHS Digital hospital data sets, NHS Digital requires all these data items to be mandatory
2. In addition to the mandatory data items listed in the SGSS specification and to enable NHS Digital to accurately link testing records across Pillars 1, 2 and 3 in support of NHS Test and Trace, NHS Digital requires the deduplication Group ID to be provided by UKHSA.

Data items that must be provided if known

- Identification method(s)
- Postcode
- Ethnicity
- Name and address of the diagnostic laboratory
- Patient's home address
- Patient's current residence (if not home address)

- Name, address, and organisation of the person who solicited the test which identified the causative agent
- Where the requesting organisation of the specimen is a GP Practice, acute hospital, or community hospital the pathology system code will be translated to ODS code.

Data items that can be provided

- Date of onset
- Source Lab
- Reference Lab.

SARI Watch

The specification for the SARI Watch (formerly CHESS) data set is as set out in; <https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2020/03/phe-letter-to-trusts-re-daily-covid-19-hospital-surveillance-11-march-2020.pdf>, and as summarised below.

Personal identifiers

- Patient name
- Date of birth
- Sex
- Hospital number
- NHS Number
- First half of postcode of residence
- Ethnicity - ONS classifications.

Laboratory details

- Estimated date of onset of symptoms
- Swab/specimen date
- Type of specimen: nasal/throat swab, nasopharyngeal/nasal aspirate, sputum, tracheal aspirate, broncho-alveolar lavage, other, unknown
- Laboratory test date
- Result of laboratory tests (select all that apply): COVID-19, A/H1N1pdm2009, A/H3N2, B, A/non-subtyped, A/unsubtypeable, RSV, other (specify).

Hospitalisation details

- Name of hospital
- Was admission flu/RSV related/COVID-19 related?
- Admitted from: home, nursing Home, residential home, temp accommodation, acute trust hospital, private hospital, other UK hospital, non-UK hospital, penal establishment, unknown, other
- If hospital: name
- Date of admission to hospital
- Was the patient admitted to ICU?
- Date of admission to ICU
- Complications: viral pneumonia, secondary bacterial pneumonia, ARDS, unknown, other co-infections, other (specify)
- If secondary bacterial pneumonia, organism, and date
- If co-infection, specify organism and test date

- What respiratory support did the patient require? (select all that apply): none / oxygen via cannulae or mask / high flow nasal oxygen, non-invasive ventilation, invasive mechanical ventilation / ECMO
- If mechanical ventilation, duration (days).

Antiviral treatment

- Received specific anti-COVID-19 treatment? (Y/N)
- Risk factors
- Chronic respiratory disease, excluding asthma (specify)
- Asthma requiring medication (specify)
- Chronic/congenital heart disease (specify)
- Hypertension
- Immunosuppression due to disease or treatment (specify)
- Chronic neurological disease (specify)
- Diabetes requiring insulin, oral hypoglycaemic drugs or diet controlled (specify type)
- Chronic renal disease (specify)
- Chronic liver disease (specify)
- Pregnancy (specify gestation on admission)
- Obesity (clinically apparent/BMI)
- Travel in 14 days (before disease onset) (Y- specify, N - not known)
- Prematurity (<37 weeks' GA)
- Works as a healthcare worker
- Contact with confirmed COVID-19 case in the 14 days before onset (Y/N/unknown)
- Other.

Outcome

- Outcome: discharged/transferred(specify)/death
- If discharged, date of discharge
- If admitted to ITU, date of leaving ITU
- If transferred, date of transfer
- If transferred, destination
- If died, date of death
- If died, cause of death: COVID-19 main cause, COVID-19 underlying cause, not COVID-19 related, influenza main cause, influenza underlying cause, RSV main cause, RSV underlying cause, other, unknown.

Burden of the collection

In seeking to minimise the burden it imposes 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 extractions.

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

Formal burden assessments have not taken place for this collection. The urgent requirement for the data to support the nationwide response of the NHS to COVID-19 outweighs the requirement for such assessments at this time.

That being the case, NHS Digital is seeking to minimise the burden of these collections has:

- Continuously engaged with UKHSA to develop the minimum data collection for both SGSS and SARI Watch
- Developed and implemented operational processes for the collections which are proportionate and maintainable by UKHSA
- Employed existing NHS Digital technical means, already employed by UKHSA, to collect the data.

For further information

www.digital.nhs.uk

0300 303 5678

enquiries@nhsdigital.nhs.uk

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