

## DIRECTIONS

Simon Bolton  
Interim Chief Executive  
NHS Digital  
7 & 8 Wellington Place  
Leeds  
West Yorkshire  
LS1 4AP

03 October 2022

Dear Simon,

### 1. “Register with a GP Surgery” Directions 2022

- 1.1 I am writing on behalf of the National Health Service Commissioning Board (known as **NHS England**) to provide Directions to the Health and Social Care Information Centre, known as and hereafter referred to in these Directions as **NHS Digital**.
- 1.2 These Directions are given in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 254(1), (3) and (6), section 260(2)(d), section 262(3) and section 304(9), (10) and (12) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012<sup>1</sup> (**the 2012 Act**) and Regulation 32 of the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (Constitution and Functions) and the Health and Social Care Information Centre (Functions) Regulations 2013<sup>2</sup> (**the Regulations**).
- 1.3 In exercising the activities and functions described in these Directions, NHS Digital must have regard to such priorities, policies, advice or guidance of NHS England as NHS England may notify in writing from time to time to NHS Digital.
- 1.4 These Directions are to be known as the “**Register with a GP Surgery**” **Directions 2022** and come into force on the date signed.

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<sup>1</sup> 2012 c.7

<sup>2</sup> S.I. 2013/259

## 2. Purpose

The purpose of these Directions (**Purpose**) is to instruct NHS Digital to operate and maintain a new national online patient General Practice registration service. NHS Digital shall operate and maintain the “**Register with a GP Surgery**” **Service**, collecting information from registering individuals and securely transmitting that information to GP IT systems for GP Practices to process registration applications.

## 3. Systems delivery functions for the “Register with a GP Surgery” Directions 2022

- 3.1 In accordance with Regulation 32 of the Regulations, NHS England directs NHS Digital to exercise such systems delivery functions of NHS England as are necessary to enable and facilitate the “**Register with a GP Surgery**” **Service** described in the Purpose.
- 3.2 NHS Digital is directed to exercise the functions in accordance with the “Register with a GP Surgery” Technical Specification version 1 approved on 03 October 2022 attached at Annex B of these Directions, as the same may be updated from time to time in accordance with these Directions (**the Technical Specification**).

## 4. Establishing and operating information systems for the “Register with a GP Surgery” Directions 2022

- 4.1 In accordance with sections 254(1) and 254(6) of the 2012 Act, NHS England directs NHS Digital to establish and operate such systems for the collection and analysis of information as are necessary to provide the “**Register with a GP Surgery**” **Service**.
- 4.2 NHS Digital is directed to carry out the activities above in accordance with the Register with a GP Surgery Requirements Specification approved on 03 October 2022 attached at Annex A of these Directions, as the same may be updated from time to time in accordance with these Directions (**the Requirements Specification**), and generally in such a way as to enable and facilitate the Purpose described above.
- 4.3 The Requirements and Technical Specifications may be updated periodically (within the confines of the scope set out in these Directions) by NHS Digital and agreed in writing by NHS England.

## 5. Service Levels etc

- 5.1 NHS England directs NHS Digital to exercise the functions described above in accordance with the service levels, support and monitoring requirements, and the reporting and governance requirements notified by NHS England in writing to NHS Digital as at the date these Directions come into force, or as

those requirements are amended and notified by an authorised officer of NHS England in writing to NHS Digital from time to time.

## 6. Requirement for these Directions

- 6.1 In accordance with section 254(3) of the 2012 Act, NHS England considers that the information which could be obtained by complying with these Directions is information which it is necessary or expedient for NHS England to have in relation to its exercise of functions in connection with the provision of NHS services.
- 6.2 In accordance with section 254(5) of the 2012 Act, NHS Digital has been consulted before these Directions have been given.

## 7. Publication

In accordance with section 260(2)(d) of the 2012 Act, NHS Digital is directed not to publish information that is specified as not for publication in the Requirements Specification.

## 8. Dissemination

- 8.1 Pursuant to section 262(3) of the 2012 Act, NHS Digital is directed to exercise its powers under section 261(4) of the 2012 Act to disseminate the information collected from each patient pursuant to these Directions to the GP Practice with which they are registering, to enable the GP Practice to complete the patient registration.
- 8.2 Any information collected as a result of, or obtained by complying with, these Directions may also be disseminated by NHS Digital in accordance with its powers under section 261 of the 2012 Act. This includes disseminating aggregate anonymous data relating to how the service is performing to NHS England under section 261(5)(d) of the 2012 Act to support the Purpose of these Directions.

## 9. Fees and Accounts

- 9.1 Pursuant to section 254(7) of the 2012 Act and Regulation 32(2)(b) of the Regulations, NHS Digital is entitled to charge NHS England a reasonable fee in respect of the cost of NHS Digital complying with these Directions.
- 9.2 NHS Digital must keep proper accounts, and proper records in relation to the accounts, in connection with the “Register with a GP Surgery” Directions 2022.

## 10. Duration

NHS Digital is directed to operate the “**Register with a GP Surgery**” Information System and undertake the system delivery functions referred to above (the **Directed Functions**) unless and until revoked by a further direction or instructed in writing by an authorised officer of NHS England on reasonable notice to

suspend and/or permanently cease the Directed Functions. Where the Directed Functions are to cease, such written request will also contain a direction to revoke these Directions in accordance with the timescales and arrangements to be agreed with NHS Digital.

#### **11. Review of these Directions**

These Directions will be reviewed when the Requirements Specification and Technical Specification are amended. This review will include consultation with NHS Digital.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. H. B.', written in a cursive style.

Signed by authority of NHS England

Date signed: 11/10/2022

**ANNEXES – “Register with a GP Surgery” Directions 2022**

**Annex A – “Register with a GP Surgery” Requirements Specification**

**Annex B – “Register with a GP Surgery” Technical Specification**