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Sarah Wilkinson
Chief Executive
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13 October 2020

Dear Sarah

1. **Cardiovascular Disease Prevention Audit Directions 2020**

- 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) and (6), section 260(2)(d), section 260(4)(a), section 261(2)(e), section 262(5) and section 304(9), (10) and (12) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012¹ (**the 2012 Act**).
- 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 the 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 **Cardiovascular Disease Prevention Audit Directions 2020** and come into force on the date signed.

2. **Purpose**

- 2.1 The purpose of these Directions (**Purpose**) is to establish the CVDPREVENT Audit, which will support the implementation of the NHS Long Term Plan under which cardiovascular disease (**CVD**) is identified as a clinical priority

¹ 2012 c.7

and the single biggest condition where lives can be saved by the NHS over the next 10 years. The CVDPREVENT Audit is a joint collaboration between NHS England, NHS Improvement, Public Health England, and the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (hereafter referred to as the **Audit Partners**). The Directions will also support the implementation of the national CVD Prevention programme.

2.2 The aim of the CVDPREVENT Audit is to support professionally led quality improvement, optimising diagnosis, and treatment to prevent heart attacks and strokes in conditions where there is a high-risk of CVD, such as hypertension, familial hypercholesterolaemia or other hyperlipidaemias, chronic kidney disease, non-diabetic hyperglycaemia, glucose intolerance or pre-diabetes, diabetes mellitus, and atrial fibrillation. The Audit also aims to evaluate the national CVD Prevention programme and inform better decisions on its delivery.

3. **Establishing and operating information systems for the Cardiovascular Disease Prevention Audit Directions data collection**

3.1 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 described in the Cardiovascular Disease Prevention Audit Direction Specification (**the Specification**) attached at Annex A of these Directions, such system to be known as the **Cardiovascular Disease Prevention Audit Directions Information System**.

3.2 NHS Digital is directed to carry out the activities above in accordance with the Specification and generally in such a way as to enable and facilitate the Purpose described above. The Specification 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.

4. **Analysis and linkage**

Pursuant to NHS England's powers under 254(1) and 254(6) of the 2012 Act, NHS Digital is further directed to analyse the information collected pursuant to these Directions, including by such reference or linkage to other data held by NHS Digital as NHS Digital determines is necessary to achieve the Purpose.

5. **Requirement for these Directions**

5.1 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.

5.2 In accordance with section 254(5) of the 2012 Act, NHS Digital has been consulted before these Directions have been given.

6. Publication

In accordance with section 260(2)(d) of the 2012 Act, NHS Digital is directed not to publish any information it obtains by complying with these Directions, except for the publication of anonymous statistical data (with small numbers suppressed) as agreed with NHS England pursuant to section 260(4)(a) of the 2012 Act, and in consultation with the other Audit Partners where NHS Digital and NHS England consider it to be appropriate that those Audit Partners are consulted.

7. Dissemination

7.1 In accordance with section 261(2)(e) of the 2012 Act, despite the prohibition on publication above, NHS Digital may disseminate under section 261(1) of the 2012 Act the information it has obtained by complying with these Directions to the Audit Partners, 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.

7.2 Under section 262(5) of the Act, NHS Digital is directed not to exercise its powers under sections 261(1) and 261(4) in relation to the information it obtains by complying with these directions, other than to disseminate information to the Audit Partners, where it would be lawful for NHS Digital to do so, as set out in paragraph 7.1 above.

8. Fees and Accounts

8.1 Pursuant to section 254(7) of the 2012 Act, NHS Digital is entitled to charge NHS England a reasonable fee in respect of the cost of NHS Digital complying with these Directions.

8.2 NHS Digital must keep proper accounts, and proper records in relation to the accounts, in connection with the Cardiovascular Disease Prevention Audit Directions 2020.

9. Duration

NHS Digital is directed to operate the Cardiovascular Disease Prevention Audit Directions Information System (**the Directed Function**) 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 Function. Where a Directed Function is 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.

10. Review of these Directions

These Directions will be reviewed when the Specification is amended. This review will include consultation with NHS Digital as required by section 254(5) of the 2012 Act.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. H. B.', written over a thin horizontal line.

Signed by authority of NHS England

Annex A - Cardiovascular Disease Prevention Audit Direction Requirements Specification