



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

15th November 2022

Dear Simon,

1. Section 255 Health and Social Care Act 2012: Electronic Prescription Service for NHS Wales 2022

- 1.1. I am writing on behalf of Digital Health and Care Wales (DHCW) to make a Request to the Health and Social Care Information Centre, now known as and referred to in this letter as NHS Digital.
- 1.2. This Request is made under section 255(1) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 (the 2012 Act).
- 1.3. This Request is to be known as the Electronic Prescription Service for NHS Wales 2022 and comes into force on the date signed.

2. Relevant functions and duties - The Welsh Government, Digital Health and Care Wales

- 2.1. DHCW is a Special Health Authority established under section 22 of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006 (the 2006 Act) and by the Digital Health and Care Wales (Establishment and Membership) Order 2020 (Establishment Order).
- 2.2. DHCW sits alongside the current seven Local Health Boards and three NHS Trusts in Wales, and its functions relates to the provision of digital platforms, systems and services and supporting the improvement of such systems and any such other functions as the Welsh Ministers may direct so as to secure the provision or promotion of services under the 2006 Act.
- 2.3. In accordance with the Establishment Order, DHCW has been directed by the Welsh Ministers under the Digital Health and Care Wales (No.2) Directions 2021 (the 2021 Directions) to carry out functions in relation to the provision or promotion of effective digital platforms, systems and services, including arrangements for the digital collection, storage, processing, analysis, use and dissemination of health service data (being data processed for or in connection with the provision or promotion of services under the 2006 Act).

3. Purpose

3.1. The purpose of this Request made pursuant to the 2021 Directions, is to provision the existing English Electronic Prescription Service (EPS) to NHS services and organisations in Wales (Relevant Organisations) to enable:

- 3.1.1. prescribers to process prescriptions more efficiently and spend less time dealing with prescription queries
- 3.1.2. dispensers to reduce use of paper, have improved stock control, and provide a more efficient service to patients
- 3.1.3. where appropriate, patients to collect repeat prescriptions from a pharmacy without visiting their GP, and without a paper prescription

(Purpose).

3.2. As the existing English EPS service is developed and expanded it is anticipated that any additional functionality will be extended to NHS Services and organisations in Wales.

4. Establishing and operating the Electronic Prescription Service for NHS Wales

4.1. Under section 255(1) of the 2012 Act, DHCW requests that NHS Digital provisions the existing English Electronic Prescription Service to enable the electronic transfer of prescriptions in Wales. This will comprise the following services:

- 4.1.1. Patient Demographic Service (PDS): Provision of access to PDS for tracing purposes.
- 4.1.2. National Back Office (NBO) Services: specifically, the national data quality service for the PDS.
- 4.1.3. Organisation Data Service (ODS): provision and administration of prescriber and dispensing organisation identifier codes.
- 4.1.4. Spine Directory Services (SDS): contains the user's roles and other information that is required for making appropriate application or data access decisions.
- 4.1.5. Care Identity Service (CIS): covers the user-data for staff (including healthcare service providers) held within the Spine Directory to support registration-processes, card-management, user-audit, and service management in respect of wider SPINE and 3rd-party supplier services.
- 4.1.6. Prescription Tracker: allows staff working at prescribing and dispensing sites to check the status of a prescription
- 4.1.7. Helpdesk services: Applicable to the supported services with Welsh calls routed through the GP and Pharmacy system suppliers.
- 4.1.8. Provision of EPS management information

- 4.2. This request is a confidential information collection request within the terms of section 256(1) of the 2012 Act because the information that will be collected will enable the identity of an individual to be ascertained.
- 4.3. In accordance with 256(2)(c) of the 2012 Act, DHCW confirms that the information may be lawfully disclosed to DHCW by GPs in Wales, Pharmacies in Wales, and the NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership (hosted by Velindre NHS Trust) because of the Directions issued to Digital Health and Care Wales under section 23 of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006 in connection with its functions.
- 4.4. Pursuant to 255(1) of the 2012 Act, NHS Digital is requested to analyse the information collected pursuant and/or obtained by NHS Digital complying with this Request, as may be requested by Digital Health and Care Wales or as NHS Digital determines is necessary to achieve the Purpose.
- 4.5. Such analysis referred to above includes:
 - 4.5.1. analysis by reference or linkage to other data obtained by NHS Digital as described in the Requirements Specification;
 - 4.5.2. analysis for data quality purposes, including undertaking comparison and consistency analysis of the same or similar information obtained through other information systems established by NHS Digital under any other request made by Digital Health and Care Wales under section 255 of the 2012 Act, and taking such steps as NHS Digital considers appropriate to maintain data quality, accuracy and consistency of information it has obtained under this Request.

5. Dissemination

- 5.1 Any information collected or analysed as a result of this Request may be disseminated by NHS Digital in accordance with its powers under section 261 of the 2012 Act.

6. Requirement for this Request

- 6.1. In accordance with section 255(2) of the 2012 Act, DHCW considers that the information which could be obtained by NHS Digital complying with this Request is information which is necessary or expedient for DHCW to have in relation to the exercise of DHCW's functions in connection with the provision of health care in Wales, and in particular to enable the DHCW to comply with its functions pursuant to the 2021 Directions.
- 6.2. In accordance with section 257(4) of the 2012 Act, DHCW has consulted with NHS Digital before making this request.

7. Fees

- 7.1 DHCW hereby acknowledges that in submitting this Request, NHS Digital is entitled to charge a reasonable fee pursuant to section 257(3) of the 2012 Act.
- 7.2 DHCW and NHS Digital (the Parties) have entered into a Provision of Services Agreement (POSA DHCW), dated 5th January 2022, which applies to the services

NHS Digital is providing to DHCW in relation to this Request. A Work Package between the Parties (under clauses 3-3.6 of the POSA) will be initiated for the provision of the existing English EPS service in Wales which will contain details of the services being provided by NHS Digital and the charges payable by DHCW.

8. Duration

8.1 NHS Digital is requested to operate the existing English EPS service for NHS Wales (the Requested Function) unless and until requested in writing by an authorised officer of DHCW on reasonable notice to suspend and/or permanently cease the Requested Function. Where the Requested Function is to cease, such written request will also revoke this section 255 Request in accordance with the timescales and arrangements to be agreed with NHS Digital.

9. Review of this Request

9.1 This request may be reviewed at any time whilst operational at the request of any of the partners or NHS Digital. This review will include consultation with NHS Digital as required by section 257(4) of the 2012 Act.

9.2 This Request may be varied at any time in consultation with NHS Digital by means of a further written request per S.255(1) of the 2012 Act.

Yours sincerely,



Signed by authority of Digital Health and Care Wales
Prof. Helen Thomas
Chief Executive
Digital Health & Care Wales
Date signed: 15th November 2022