



# Public Health England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

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Sarah Wilkinson  
Chief Executive  
NHS Digital  
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1 November 2017

Dear Sarah,

I am writing to provide a Direction to NHS Digital to establish and operate a system for the collection and analysis of data on the NHS Health Check programme; specifically, this will concern data on the 'NHS Health Check for adults aged 40 – 74 years' (referred hereafter to as the 'NHS Health Check').

The NHS Health Check is a check of an individual's heart health and aimed at adults in England aged 40 to 74 years, who are invited to attend at 5-yearly intervals. The NHS Health Check is intended to check vascular and circulatory health, and is used to calculate a person's risk of developing certain preventable illnesses.

This Direction is given in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 254(1) and (6), 260(2)(d), 261(3), 274(2) and 304(9), (10) and (12) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 (the Act)<sup>1</sup> 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>.

In accordance with section 254(2)(a) of the Act, the Secretary of State considers that the information obtained by complying with this Direction is necessary in connection with the provision of health services in England.

This Direction is to be known as the Direction for the NHS Health Check for adults aged 40 – 74 years data extraction, and comes into force on 17 October 2017.

Under section 254 of the Act, NHS Digital is required to:

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

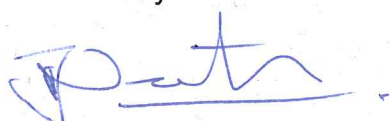
<sup>2</sup> S.I. 2013/259

- Collect data (see Annex A: business rules for the NHS Health Check data extract) from general practices in England about the following four cohorts of patients:
  1. Patients aged 40 – 74 years invited to an NHS Health Check only.
  2. Patients aged 40 – 74 years who either commenced, completed (by a GP or third party), did not attend or declined an NHS Health Check.
  3. Patients aged 40 – 74 years who are recorded as inappropriate for an NHS Health Check and who have not commenced, completed (by a GP or third party), did not attend or declined an NHS Health Check.
  4. Patients aged 18 – 39 years who were invited to an NHS Health Check and / or completed an NHS Health Check<sup>3</sup>.
- Link the data collected from general practices with relevant clinical data held by NHS Digital.
- Disseminate data collected under this Direction in an anonymised form to Public Health England.

Please accept this letter as a Direction given under subsection (1) of section 254 of the 2012 Act to NHS Digital to establish and operate a system for the collection and analysis of information about NHS Health Checks for adults aged 40 – 74 years.

In accordance with section 254(5), NHS Digital has been consulted before this Direction has been given.

Yours sincerely



Professor John Newton  
Director of Health Improvement  
Public Health England

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<sup>3</sup> The NHS Health Check is for adults aged 40 – 74 years, though there is evidence to suggest that patients aged less than 40 years are sometimes invited to complete an NHS Health Check. This is why this cohort is included in this data extraction.