



Department
of Health &
Social Care

Department of Health and Social
Care
39 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0EU

Amanda Pritchard
Chief Executive
NHS England

15th February 2024

Dear Amanda,

1. **Cancer Programme Pilots Evaluation Directions 2024**

- 1.1 I am writing on behalf of the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care (**the Secretary of State**) to give Directions to **NHS England**.
- 1.2 These Directions are given in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 254(1), and 304(9), (10) and (12) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012¹ (**the 2012 Act**), sections 13ZC and 272(7) and (8) of the National Health Service Act 2006² (**the 2006 Act**).
- 1.3 These Directions are to be known as the **Cancer Programme Pilots Evaluation Directions 2024** and come into force on the date after the day on which they are signed.

¹ 2012 c.7. Relevant amendments were made by the Health and Social Care Information Centre (Transfer of Functions, Abolition and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 2023/98).

² 2006 c.41. Section 13ZC was inserted by section 45 of the Health and Care Act 2022 (c.31).

2. Requirement for these Directions

- 2.1 In accordance with section 254(2)(b) of the 2012 Act, the Secretary of State considers that it is in the interests of the health service in England or of the recipients or providers of adult social care in England for these Directions to be given.
- 2.2 In accordance with section 254(5) of the 2012 Act, the Secretary of State has consulted NHS England before giving these Directions.
- 2.3 In accordance with section 13ZC(5) of the 2006 Act, the Secretary of State considers these Directions to be in the public interest.

3. Priorities, Policies and Non-Statutory Guidance

In exercising functions under these Directions, NHS England must have regard to such priorities, policies and non-statutory guidance³ of the Secretary of State as the Secretary of State may notify in writing from time to time to NHS England.

4. Purpose

The purpose of these Directions (**the Purpose**) is to require NHS England to establish an information system for the collection and analysis of data in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the NHS England Cancer Programme Pilots. This will enable NHS England to fulfil its commitments for delivering the NHS Long Term Plan (LTP) ambitions in relation to increasing cancer survival and early diagnosis rates, reducing cancer waiting times, and providing more personalised care for patients both during and after their cancer diagnosis. NHS England will use the data obtained to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of these pilot initiatives in order to:

- 4.1 develop and deliver methodologies to enable faster and more efficient pilot set up and for the improved data collection from health care providers;
- 4.2 evaluate the impact from pilots on patient experience, patient outcomes, and wider system outcomes;
- 4.3 measure the cost effectiveness of pilots; and
- 4.4 support planning and research relating to cancer outcomes.

5. Establishing and operating information systems

- 5.1 The Secretary of State directs NHS England to establish and operate a system for the collection and analysis of the information described in the related Requirements Specifications as defined in section 5.2 below

³In addition to complying with these Directions, NHS England has a duty to have regard to [statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State under section 274A of the 2012 Act: NHS England's protection of patient data, 23 May 2023](#), as the same may be updated from time to time.

(Information System) and to do so in accordance with those Requirements Specifications.

5.2 It is anticipated that there will be multiple collections within the scope of these Directions. Each collection will have a requirements specification published alongside these Directions-as may be updated periodically by the Secretary of State in consultation with NHS England (**the Requirements Specifications**).

5.3 The Requirements Specifications published at the date of these Directions are:

5.3.1 Requirements Specification for Cancer Programme Pilots – Community Pharmacy;

5.3.2 Requirement Specification for Cancer Programme Pilots – Targeted Lung Health Check Programme,

as updated periodically by the Secretary of State in consultation with NHS England.

5.4 The Secretary of State directs NHS England to analyse the information which NHS England obtains by complying with these Directions (**the Information**), as may be required by the Secretary of State or as NHS England considers necessary to achieve the Purpose.

5.5 Such analysis includes:

5.5.1 analysis by reference or linkage to any other information described in the Requirements Specifications;

5.5.2 analysis for data quality purposes, including undertaking comparison and consistency analysis of the same or similar information obtained by complying with other directions under section 254 of the 2012 Act;

5.5.3 any other analysis of data as NHS England considers appropriate to maintain data quality, accuracy and consistency of information in relation to the Information.

5.6 In exercising functions under these Directions, NHS England must act in accordance with the Requirements Specifications and generally in such a way as to achieve the Purpose.

6. **Service Levels etc**

In exercising functions under these Directions, NHS England must act in accordance with the service levels, support and monitoring requirements, and the reporting and governance requirements notified by the Secretary of State in writing to NHS England as at the date these Directions come into force, or as those requirements are amended and notified by an authorised officer of the Department for Health and Social Care on behalf of the Secretary of State in writing to NHS England from time to time.

7. Fees and Accounts

NHS England must keep proper accounts, and proper records in relation to the accounts, in connection with these Directions.

8. Duration

NHS England must exercise functions under these Directions until they are revoked by a further direction in writing by an authorised officer of the Department of Health and Social Care on behalf of the Secretary of State.

9. Review of these Directions

These Directions will be reviewed from time to time. Any amendments to the Directions or the Requirements Specification(s) will only be made after consultation with NHS England.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. G. ...', written in a cursive style.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State

Date signed: 15th February 2024