



Department of Health & Social Care

Sarah Wilkinson
Chief Executive
NHS Digital
1 Trevelyan Square
Boar Lane
Leeds
LS1 6AE

16 August 2018

Dear Sarah

GP Level Data Direction 2018

I am writing to provide a direction to the Health and Social Care Information Centre, now known and hereafter referred to as NHS Digital, to establish and operate a system for the collection and analysis of individual GP level data.

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

In accordance with section 254(2)(b) of the Act, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care considers that this information is necessary or expedient to have in relation to his functions in connection with the provision of health services in England.

NHS Digital is directed to not publish information collected or produced by complying with this Direction, in accordance with section 260(2)(d). By virtue of section 261(3), NHS Digital is required to disseminate information, which it is prohibited from publishing under section 260(2)(d), only as specified in Appendix A 'GP Level Data Direction 2018 supporting information'.

The information to be collected is required in order to provide GPs with data for named patient lists. This will support one of the objectives in the Government's mandate to NHS England for 2018-19 by enabling GPs to review and improve the quality of care and outcomes for their named patients.

This Direction is to be known as the GP Level Data Direction 2018 and comes into force on the 16th of August 2018.

Under section 254 of the 2012 Act, NHS Digital is required to undertake the following in accordance with Appendix A:

- Extract patient level primary care data via the General Practice Extraction Service (GPES) for a set of 10 metrics;

- Validate the extracted data;
- Link the extracted primary care data with secondary care data – noting only 1 metric of the 10 is being linked to secondary care data;
- Produce aggregated reports per general practice to include the metrics for all of the individual named GPs who are registered as working at that general practice. This report will be disseminated to the practices and will remain private and unpublished.

Please accept this letter as a Direction given under section 254(1) of the 2012 Act to NHS Digital to establish and operate a system for the collection and analysis of individual GP level data.

In line with the policy on Type 1 opt-outs set out in Government response to the National Data Guardian review of data security, consent and opt-outs NHS Digital are directed to uphold Type 1 opt-outs and not collect data for any patients who have a Type 1 opt-out registered with their GP practice.

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

This Direction replaces the GP Metrics Direction 2016.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E Scully', is positioned above the printed name.

Edward Scully
Deputy Director Primary Care