

GP Data for Planning and Research
Check and Challenge Group
Minutes of the meeting held 8th June 2022
Final – Approved for publication

Attendees

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Michael Chapman	Director of Research and Clinical Trials, NHS Digital	Nicola Byrne	National Data Guardian
Ian Hulme	Information Commissioners Office	David Parkin	British Medical Association
Ruth Ellenby	Royal College of General Practitioners	Michael Lewis	National Institute for Health Research
Paul Atkinson	Royal College of General Practitioners		
NHS Digital Programme Team Representatives - Chair			

Actions & Decisions Recorded

Action ID	Description	Owner	Target Date
CAC-A012	Review the TRE readiness proposal based on member feedback and iterate as required.	Programme Team	06/07/2022
CAC-A014	Ensure discussion on TRE governance, security, and access oversight is included on an upcoming Check & Challenge meeting agenda	Programme Team	20/07/2022

Meeting Notes

Meeting Notes

Introductions and update on previous actions

- Programme Lead stepped in as Chair due to apologies from planned external chair. Members welcomed to the call and meeting agenda outlined
- Apologies noted from members due to prior commitments and/or annual leave
- Michael Chapman introduced from NHS Digital to present on the TRE

Ratification of previous action notes ahead of publication

- Detailed notes from previous meeting commended and approved for publication

TRE Planning

- Michael Chapman outlined his role and focus areas regarding implementation of an NHS Digital TRE and potential benefits compared to the existing data collection and usage processes
- The aim is safe, responsible, and ethical data usage for research and planning, using data from multiple care settings including general practice. This requires a TRE to be built that works for researchers, and in a way in which preserves privacy and protects patient data
- This will require security measures to be built directly into the data platform (safety by technology), with additional appropriate contractual safeguards in place
- It is acknowledged that different access modes with different safeguards will be needed for the different use cases under consideration
- The delivery approach for the TRE was discussed and the following key points were made:
 - NHS Digital is building on the existing NHSD TRE
 - Improved data access methods will be implemented in a controlled way
 - Different modes of access to meet different user requirements will be implemented in a controlled and transparent manner
 - Controls will also be implemented on how the data can be used, as well as accessed, to ensure data security is prioritised alongside utilisation
 - NHS Digital will ensure modes are fit for purpose by working with smaller test groups ahead of wider adoption

- The TRE development team are working with OpenSAFELY to accelerate implementation where possible
- NHSD and NHSE remain separate at present, however some discussion might be required to determine the strategic fit between the TRE and other data storage platforms (such as FDP). The programme acknowledges these concerns and will pick up in future conversations
- It was raised whether there is a risk to using the term TRE (or Secure Data Environment (SDE)) due to a lack of broad understanding as to what constitutes a 'trusted' or 'secure' environment
- A question was raised as to how communications will be created to assure the general public and avoid reactions similar to GDPR last summer. Communications will be layered to provide different depths of information around different topics so individuals can explore to the depth they are interested. There will always be high level statements to assure with clear links through to more technical or detailed information
- There was a request for a future discussion on the governance and oversight of access to TREs. Action agreed by members and noted (**CAC-A014**)
- Members agreed that the presentation was informative and has improved their understanding around the NHS Digital TRE. Action CAC-A010 and CAC-A011 marked as complete following discussion. Work to continue as part of TRE requirements.
- Members noted they would like to understand more of the exceptional risks with the TRE, such as how opt outs will be applied, before being able to confirm agreement with the TRE approach to meet the ministerial commitments. This would assist in addressing possible concerns with wider stakeholders. Further work required by the programme team to provide these assurances to members

Draft process for confirming approach meets ministerial commitments

- Noted that draft process document being progressed and members to continue to feedback. Action CAC-A013 marked as closed and Programme team drafting requirements documents for each set of deliverables to meet ministerial commitments. These will be shared with Check & Challenge members once drafting complete. CAC-A012 pushed out to 6th July to allow time to iterate TRE requirements document following feedback

AOB

- Agreement that the presentation on the TRE has been useful, and comments and actions have been noted.

- Members were thanked for their time and input during the session, and the meeting was closed by the Chair