

# Data Coordination Board

## Information Standards Notice – Change

Acting under delegated authority from the Secretary of State for Health, the Data Coordination Board (DCB) has approved a change to an existing information standard for publication under section 250 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

You must comply with the change to this standard by the full conformance date specified below.

Standard details	
DCB unique identifier	DCB1596 Amd 77/2017
Name	Secure Email Version 2.1
Approval date	14 September 2017
Publication date	28 September 2017
Standard definition	
Description	<p>This standard defines the minimum non-functional requirements for a secure email service, covering the storage and transmission of email. This is the basic level for the storage and transmission of patient identifiable data by an email system. It includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The information security of the email service.</li><li>• Transfer of sensitive information over insecure email.</li><li>• Access from the Internet or mobile devices.</li><li>• Exchange of information outside the boundaries of the secure standard.</li></ul> <p>It excludes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Security standards for document archives.</li><li>• Specific technical solutions for communicating with insecure email services.</li><li>• Email systems that are not intended to process official and or personal identifiable data.</li><li>• Technical security controls that might be used to make a more secure email system, for example two factor authentication, digital signatures.</li></ul>
About this change	<p>This release, Version 2.1, introduces a minor change which is intended to reduce the costs of implementation.</p> <p>Following the release of Version 2.0 in March 2017, discussions with a group of 25 health and care organisations that are required to accredit their email services identified issues with the implementation requirements. These issues could have led to additional and unnecessary burden by undertaking unnecessary penetration testing and ISO 27001 certification in areas outside of the intended scope of the standard. This is evident when procuring email services that are already accredited (for example, Microsoft Office 365).</p> <p>Therefore the standard documents have been re-written to ensure the clarity of requirements.</p>

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Scope (Health and Social Care Act 2012)	NHS Services, Health Services, Adult Social Care
Applies to	This information standard applies to all health and care organisations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• public, private and third sector organisations commissioned in delivering publicly funded health, public health and adult social care</li> <li>• commissioned email service providers (any commissioned supplier providing email services within health and care)</li> <li>• commissioners of health and care within England.</li> </ul>
Impacts upon	Implementation of this information standard impacts all IT service providers of email systems to the above providers and commissioners. IT service providers should work with their customers to determine necessary changes.
Legal authority	This information standard is published under section 250 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.
Link to further documentation	The Requirements Specification and Implementation Guidance are available on the NHS Digital website: <a href="http://www.content.digital.nhs.uk/isce/publication/dcb1596">www.content.digital.nhs.uk/isce/publication/dcb1596</a>  Further information about Secure Email is available on the NHS Digital website: <a href="https://digital.nhs.uk/article/816/NHSmail-and-the-Secure-Email-Standard">https://digital.nhs.uk/article/816/NHSmail-and-the-Secure-Email-Standard</a>
<b>Contacts</b>	
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Help Desk	<a href="mailto:feedback@nhs.net">feedback@nhs.net</a>
<b>Dates</b>	
Implementation and conformance dates	Conformance with this information standard is due by September 2017. This Notice does not extend this conformance date.
Post Implementation Review date	30 September 2018

The controlled version of this Information Standards Notice is published on the NHS Digital website: [www.content.digital.nhs.uk/isce/publication/isn](http://www.content.digital.nhs.uk/isce/publication/isn)