

Information Standards Notice – Change

Acting under delegated authority from the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, the Data Alliance Partnership Board (DAPB) 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 | |
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| DAPB unique identifier | DAPB0086 Amd 33/2024 |
| Name | Data Security and Protection Toolkit Version 7.0 |
| Approval date | 20 August 2024 |
| Publication date | 30 September 2024 |
| Standard definition | |
| Description | <p>The Data Security and Protection (DSP) Toolkit is an online tool that enables relevant organisations to measure their performance against the data security and information governance requirements mandated by the Department of Health and Social Care, notably the 10 data security standards set by the National Data Guardian and the National Cyber Security Centre Cyber Assessment Framework.</p> <p>All organisations that have access to NHS patient data and systems must use this Toolkit to provide assurance that they are practising good data security and that personal information is handled correctly. Such organisations are required to carry out self-assessments of their compliance against the assertions and evidence contained within the DSP Toolkit.</p> <p>While some elements are mandatory, the DSP Toolkit also provides a mechanism for organisations to continually monitor their own performance and so be able to evidence improvement over time against recommended elements</p> |
| About this change | <p>The DSP Toolkit standard is reviewed annually. The changes for 2024-25 version 7 standard sees a reduction in the total number of responses required for NHS organisations, Key IT suppliers and Independent providers who are designated operators of essential</p> |

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| | <p>services under Network and Information Systems directive (NIS)2 and is unchanged for all other sectors. Changes made have been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHS organisations (NHS Trusts, Integrated Care Boards, Commissioning Support Units and Arm’s length Bodies utilise the NCSC Cyber Assessment framework introduced into the DSPT in line with the Cyber Strategy for health and care ³ • Rationalise evidence items where there is overlap between evidence items. • Reflect feedback from stakeholders particularly: • Update the requirements for Key IT Suppliers and Independent Providers who have been designated Operators of Essential Services to ensure they are fully applicable to them. • Update requirements for smaller organisations to align with Information Commissioners Office (ICO) and NCSC guidance from small businesses. Most significantly adding a requirement for multifactor authentication for remote access as a key lesson from recent cyber security incidents. <p>A full list of changes can be found in the Change Specification.</p> |
| <p>Scope (Health and Social Care Act 2012)</p> | <p>Health Services, NHS Services, Adult Social Care</p> |
| <p>Applies to</p> | <p>DSP Toolkit assessments must be completed and published by all organisations which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have access to NHS patients and/or to their information • provide support services directly to an NHS organisation • have either direct or indirect access to national informatics services. <p>This includes social care providers that provide care through the NHS Standard Contract.</p> <p>In addition, completion of the DSP Toolkit is obligatory for any party seeking approval for access to NHS patient information from either the Confidentiality Advisory Group or NHS England.</p> |

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| Legal authority | <p>This information standard is published under section 250 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.</p> <p>This information standard is the subject of Directions under section 254 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, from [NHS England] [the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care] to NHS Digital (now NHS England), published on the NHS England website</p> |
| Link to further documentation | <p>The Change Specification, Requirements Specification and Implementation Guidance are available on the NHS England website: DAPB0086: Data Security and Protection Toolkit - NHS England Digital</p> <p>Access to the DSP Toolkit is through a dedicated website: https://www.dsptoolkit.nhs.uk/</p> |
| Contacts | |
| Sponsor | Phil Huggins, National Chief Information Security Officer for Health and Care, Department of Health and Social Care |
| SRO | Michael Owen, Deputy Director, Cyber Operations, NHS England |
| Business Lead | John Hodson |
| Help Desk | Full contact details – email, phone and self-service portal – are available on the DSP Toolkit website: www.dsptoolkit.nhs.uk/Home/Contact |
| Dates | |
| Implementation date | 01 July 2024 |
| Full conformance date | 30 June 2025 |
| Post Implementation Review date | 30 June 2026 |

The controlled version of this Information Standards Notice is published on the NHS England website: www.digital.nhs.uk/isce/publication/isns