

# DAPB1577 Diagnostic Imaging Data Set (DIDS) v2.0

Implementation  
Guidance



# Data Assurance Board

The Data Assurance Board (DAB), which holds delegated authority from the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, has approved a change to an existing information standard for publication under [section 250 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012](#).

Assurance that this information standard meets the requirements of the Act and is appropriate for the use specified in the specification document has been provided by the Data Governance Assurance and Testing (DGAT) team and endorsed by the Data Assurance Board (DAB).

This information standard comprises the following documents:

- Change Specification
- Implementation Guidance (this document)
- Requirements Specification
- Technical Output Specification

An Information Standards Notice (DAPB1557 Amd 25/2025) has been issued as a notification of use and implementation timescales. Please read this alongside the documents for the standard.

The controlled copies of these documents can be found on the [NHS England website](#). Any copies held outside of that area, in whatever format (e.g. paper, email attachment), are considered to have passed out of control and should be checked for currency and validity.

Date of publication: 8 October 2025



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<b>Document filename:</b>	DAPB1577 Amd 25/2025 Implementation Guidance		
<b>Project / Programme</b>	Data Design: Development		
<b>Document Reference</b>	DIDS v2.0 Implementation Guidance		
<b>Project Manager</b>	John Winter	<b>Status</b>	Final
<b>Owner</b>	Chris Turner	<b>Version</b>	1.0
<b>Author</b>	Raji Nalabothu	<b>Version issue date</b>	02/09/2025

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# Document management

## Revision History

Version	Date	Summary of Changes
0.1	30/04/2025	Document Created
0.2	15/05/2025	Internal Review
0.3	20/05/2025	Internal Review
0.4	20/06/2025	Internal Review
0.5	17/07/2025	Internal Review
0.6	11/08/2025	Updated following DGAT feedback
0.7	14/08/2025	Minor updates following DGAT feedback
0.8	26/08/2025	Minor updates including formatting for submission to DGAT
0.9	02/09/2025	Minor updates following final DGAT review

## Reviewers

This document must be reviewed by the following people:

Reviewer name	Title / Responsibility	Date	Version
Chris Turner	Lead Data Architect		Various
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Dominic Gair	Service Owner (Lead) Data Products (HES, ECDS, ADS, DIDS) & IAO	18/08/2025	0.7
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This document must be approved by the following people:

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Name	Signature	Title	Date	Version
John Winter		Data Operations Principal Manager	20/08/2025	0.7
Tom Latham		Head of Data Design	15/08/2025	0.7
Dominic Gair		Service Owner (Lead) Data Products (HES, ECDS, ADS, DIDS)	20/08/2025	0.7

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## Glossary of Terms

A full glossary of terms is available in the [Requirements Specification](#) that accompanies this Standard.

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# 1 Overview or Definition

A description of the Diagnostic Imaging Data Set v2.0 Information Standard, along with benefits, who it applies to and other relevant information such as the full conformance date, is contained within the [Requirements Specification](#) which is to be read in conjunction with this document.

The purpose of this document is to support providers of imaging services in their preparations for the implementation of the Diagnostic Imaging Data Set (DIDS) v2.0 which is mandated for local collection from 1 April 2026. This document is not exhaustive but aims to make users aware of guidance available, drawing attention to essential steps and help services assess their state of readiness. This document also includes information on a variety of topics that impact implementation of the data set such as information governance, training and ongoing maintenance. All aspects of this Implementation Guidance should be considered during initial set up (for new providers) and reviewed as a result of the uplift to the Diagnostic Imaging Data Set v2.0 (for existing submitters). Users should make use of this document when preparing a high-level picture of how their organisation intends to tackle this implementation to meet the required timescales.

## 2 Scope

The DIDS data product includes information about examinations conducted on NHS patients in England including NHS trusts, NHS foundation trusts and independent sector providers who provide NHS funded imaging services.

The data is extracted from providers imaging systems and submitted monthly. DIDS includes activity undertaken since April 2012.

This guidance covers the new version of the data set (version 2.0) to be implemented from 1 April 2026.

Each DIDS record contains a wide range of information about the imaging activity, including information on the:

- patient (such as NHS number, date of birth, gender, ethnicity)
- referrer (referrer code, referring organisation code)
- imaging provider
- imaging examination (imaging codes, key dates in the imaging process)

Further information is derived from the submitted data, including:

- geographic information (Lower and Middle Super Output Area)
- commissioning groups
- organisation names (for example trust sites, GP practices)
- imaging related information (such as modality, body region, body system)
- days between key imaging dates (for example days from test request to test, days from test to service report issue)

Data not captured on the provider's RIS such as for breast screening or cardiac ultrasound activity is not included in the data set. The images that are produced from the in-scope activity are not included.

## 3 Related/Supporting information

### Supporting Documents

This document should be read in conjunction with the following:

Ref #	Title
1	DIDS Change Specification
2	DIDS Technical Output Specification
3	DIDS Requirements Specification
4	NHS Data Model and Dictionary Change Request

### Related Standards

Reference	Title
DCB0129	<a href="#">Clinical Risk Management: its Application in the Manufacture of Health IT Systems</a>
DCB0160	<a href="#">Clinical Risk Management: its Application in the Deployment and Use of Health IT Systems</a>
DCB0028	<a href="#">Treatment Function and Main Specialty Standard</a>
ISB 0148	<a href="#">National Interim Clinical Imaging Procedure Codes</a>
ISB 0149-02	<a href="#">NHS Number for Secondary Care</a>

SCCI0034	<a href="#">SNOMED CT</a>
DAPB0092	<a href="#">Commissioning Data Sets</a>
DAPB0090	<a href="#">Health and Social Care Organisation Reference Data</a>

## 4 Timescales/plan

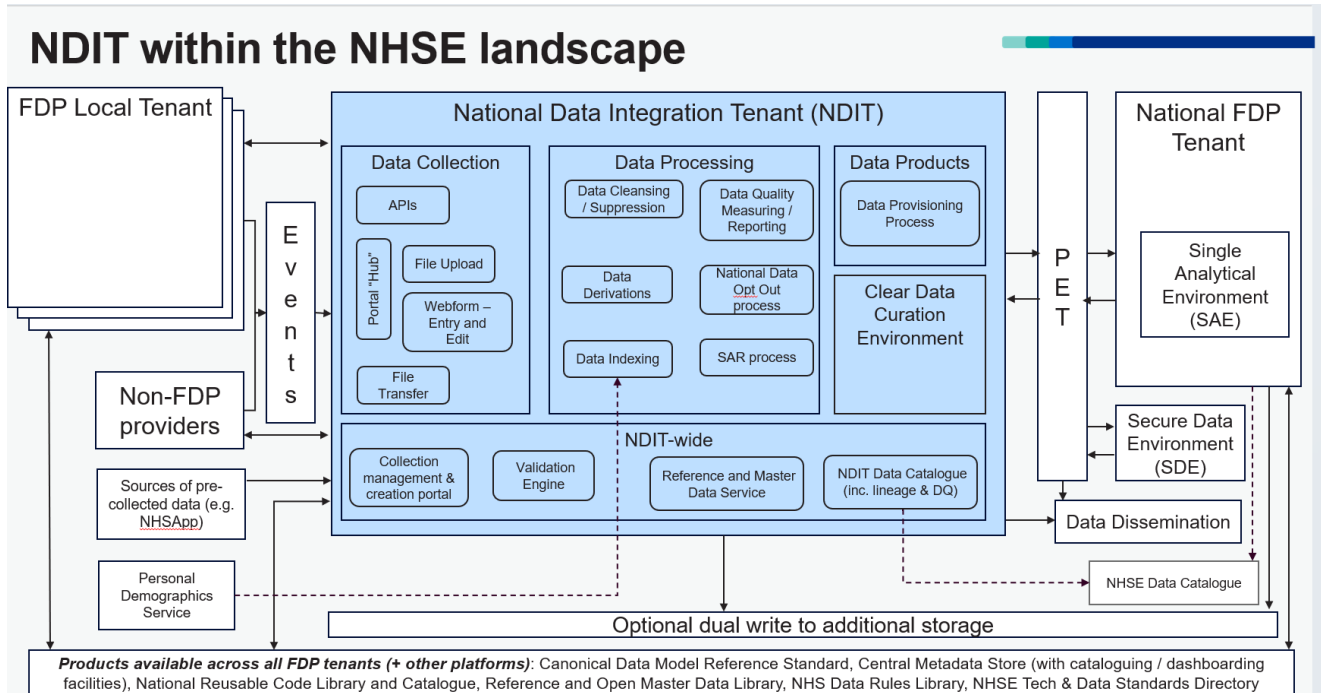
The specified data should be entered in local systems and submitted in a timely manner according to the prescribed submission window deadlines available from the Submitting DIDS Data webpage. This will ensure that the data set can deliver meaningful, relevant and timely reports for stakeholders. This should be followed by a review of data quality feedback provided at the point of submission at the data landing platform to implement improvement actions.

In particular, providers should reference the validation and inclusion rules detailed within the Enhanced Technical Output Specification to understand the requirements of when each data item must be reported according to the relevant reporting period.

Please note that any delay in data submission may have an adverse impact on data quality if insufficient time is allowed to make improvements following the production of the data quality report provided after each submission to the data landing platform, and prior to associated reporting.

## 5 Data flow diagram

The below diagram shows the end-to-end data flow.



## 6 Guidance by user group

### 6.1.1 First time submitters – Implementing the DIDS

The table below provides a high-level summary of essential steps for implementing the DIDS within your organisation.

Activity	Step	Description
Background, Objectives and Scope	Understand the background and the scope of the Information Standard	Establish whether the DIDS implementation applies to your organisation. Review this Implementation Guidance along with the <a href="#">Requirements Specification</a> to fully understand the background, objectives and scope to this Information Standard.
	Consider Using DIDS System Conformance Checklist	The DIDS System Conformance Checklist may be used to record your baseline position and monitor progress. This document can be found on the DIDS webpages

Communications	Identify and engage with key stakeholders	<p>Identify the key stakeholders for your DIDS implementation and ensure they are aware of the requirement. In particular:</p> <p>Read section Skills Mix Changes and Training’ of this document, section 6.1.5 to fully understand what local support may be required for different stakeholder groups.</p> <p>Inform local commissioners of progress with implementation and discuss plans for utilising the commissioner extracts made available post-submission.</p> <p>Ensure relevant systems suppliers and involved stakeholders are aware of the requirements for IT systems as per the <i>Requirements Specification</i>.</p> <p>Maintain ongoing stakeholder engagement.</p>
	Keep up to date with news and updates	<p>Attend any of the regular stakeholders’ events which may have relevance to your organisation.</p> <p>Ensure you subscribe to receive our DIDS v2.0 updates and other important emails.</p> <p>You can subscribe yourself <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
Share your implementation experience	Get in touch with the team	<p>The Data Design service welcomes any feedback you may have on the submission process and data set design. You can contact us via the central <a href="mailto:enquiries@nhsdigital.nhs.net">enquiries@nhsdigital.nhs.net</a> mailbox (including ‘FAO – DIDS v2.0 Implementation (Data Design)’ within the subject line). Please also use this address if you need any support during implementation.</p>
Information Requirements	Understand how the data is grouped within the data set	<p>Review the Data Model and the Technical Output Specification to understand at a higher level how the data items are</p>

		grouped, and how those groups relate to each other.
	Decide whether and how data items will be collected – Data Mapping.	<p>Look more closely at each individual data item in the Technical Output Specification and check whether local systems record the data in a way that means it can be submitted within the DIDS, either directly or with local transformation.</p> <p>Read the <a href="#">User Guidance</a> for further guidance on interpretation and data mapping.</p> <p>The <a href="#">System Conformance Checklist</a> can be used to mark off each data item and record progress towards mapping each data item.</p>
	Prioritise approach to meeting information requirements.	<p>Prioritise your approach to implementing the DIDS and achieving full coverage of the information requirements. This should involve agreeing how implementation might be phased, for example by identifying those services that are well placed to collect DIDS as ‘early adopters’.</p> <p>You may choose to prioritise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• by data items (e.g., all mandatory data across all systems in all services first)</li> <li>• by service (e.g., starting with largest services)</li> <li>• by system (e.g., all data from a particular clinical support system first).</li> </ul>
Information Governance	Ensure the organisation complies with Information Governance requirements.	The <i>Implementation Guidance</i> signposts additional information relating to Information Governance (IG) issues surrounding the use of health service data. Caldicott Guardians and the Data

		<p>Controllers responsible for imaging services MUST:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the Information Governance Guidelines signposted within the <i>Implementation Guidance</i> to understand the issues around data submission, storage and reporting processes when handling identifiable and sensitive data items.</li> <li>Review management of the consent issues and put in place local processes.</li> <li>Review the Information Governance guidelines outlined on the NHS England webpages <a href="#">here</a>.</li> </ul> <p>The <i>User Guidance</i> may also contain data item level guidance in relation to specific local information Governance aspects, where appropriate.</p>
Submission Process	Ensure compliance with technical requirements to enable data submission	Look more closely at the technical requirements needed to get ready for data submission and ensure sufficient time is allowed to take action, where required.
	Obtain login credentials for the data landing platform	Follow NHS England guidance to enable members of staff to be authorised to access the data landing platform to upload submission files.
	Obtain a copy of the latest submission file	Obtain a copy of the latest XML / CSV file from the <a href="#">TRUD website</a> (or API if applicable) which defines the exact structure and content of the submission file.
	Construct data submission file	Use local processes and technologies to generate the submission file.

		<p>The Information Standard does not stipulate any particular local processes that should be used to generate the required output file. It may be that some data providers will construct a temporary local data warehouse to enable them to aggregate data from a number of different sources.</p>
	<p>Fully understand the validation reporting provided by the data landing platform</p>	<p>The <a href="#">Enhanced Technical Output Specification</a> defines the validations that will be undertaken when data is received at NHS England and lists all the associated error and warning messages that may be produced.</p> <p>Review this specification to ensure a thorough understanding of the errors and warnings that may be produced and also how they can be fixed for later submissions.</p>
	<p>Understand the extract files that will be available to data providers and the data available to commissioners</p>	<p>The Enhanced Technical Output Specification defines the content of the extract files for providers. An XML Schema and a CSV format (if preferred) are provided which show the structure of these extracts. The <i>XML Schema</i> and <i>CSV format</i> can be found on the NHS England, <a href="#">Technology Reference data Update Distribution (TRUD)</a> pages, for which you need to create an account and log in.</p> <p>An API (Application Programming Interface) submission route may also be available for submission as an alternative. Further details of this (if available) will be published on the NHS England website.</p> <p>Data providers and commissioners will need to consider how they may use the submitted data. Data providers therefore should remain in contact with local commissioners in order to explain any</p>

		changes to data submitted or with respect to identified data quality issues.
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## 6.1.2 Existing Users – Implementing v2.0 changes

The table below provides a high-level summary of essential steps for implementing the changes to the DIDS within your organisation.

Activity	Step	Description
Background, Objectives and Scope	Understand the background and the scope of the Information Standard	Review this <i>Implementation Guidance</i> along with the <i>Requirements Specification</i> to fully understand the background, objectives and scope to this Information Standard.
	Stakeholders	<p>Continue to ensure that stakeholders are aware of the requirements. In particular:</p> <p>Read section ‘Skills Mix Changes and Training’ to fully understand what local support may be required for different stakeholder groups.</p> <p>Inform local commissioners of progress with implementation and discuss plans for utilising the commissioner extracts made available post-submission.</p> <p>Ensure relevant systems suppliers and involved stakeholders are aware of the requirements for imaging systems as per the <i>Requirements Specification</i>.</p> <p>Maintain ongoing stakeholder engagement.</p>
Communications	Keep up to date with news and updates	<p>Attend any of the regular stakeholders’ events which may have relevance to your organisation.</p> <p>Ensure you have subscribed to receive our regular DIDS information updates and other important emails by requesting to join</p>

		<p>our mailing list via the central <a href="mailto:enquiries@nhsdigital.nhs.net">enquiries@nhsdigital.nhs.net</a> mailbox (including 'FAO DIDS v2.0 Implementation - within the subject line).</p> <p>You can also subscribe yourself <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
	Understand how the data is grouped within the data set	<p>Review the <i>Change Specification, Data Model</i> and the <i>Technical Output Specification</i> to understand how the new or amended data items are grouped and how those groups relate to each other.</p> <p>The <i>Technical Output Specification's</i> Change Control tab contains detailed information about each change made.</p>
Share your implementation experience	Get in touch with the team	<p>The Data Design service welcomes any feedback you may have on the submission process and data set design. You can contact us via the central <a href="mailto:enquiries@nhsdigital.nhs.net">enquiries@nhsdigital.nhs.net</a> mailbox (including 'FAO DIDS v2.0 Implementation (Data Design)' within the subject line). Please also use this address if you need any support during implementation.</p>
Information Requirements	Decide whether and how new or amended data items will be collected – Data Mapping.	<p>Look more closely at each individual change to the <i>Technical Output Specification</i> and check whether local systems record the data in a way that means it can be submitted within DIDS v2.0, either directly or with local transformation.</p> <p>Read the <a href="#">User Guidance</a> for further guidance on interpretation and data mapping for the changes, and the Change Specification for a summary of the changes.</p> <p>The <a href="#">System Conformance Checklist</a> can be used to mark off each data item and record progress towards mapping each data item.</p>

	Prioritise approach to meeting information requirements.	Prioritise your approach to implementing the DIDS changes and achieving full coverage of the new/amended information requirements.
	Ensure the organisation continues to comply with Information Governance requirements.	<p>The <i>Implementation Guidance</i> signposts additional information relating to Information Governance (IG) issues surrounding the use of health service data. Caldicott Guardians and Data Controllers for imaging services MUST:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the Information Governance Guidelines signposted within the <i>Implementation Guidance</i> to understand the issues around data submission, storage and reporting processes when handling identifiable and sensitive data items.</li> <li>• Review management of the consent issues and put in place local processes.</li> <li>• Review the Information Governance guidelines outlined on the NHS England webpages <a href="#">here</a>.</li> </ul> <p>The <i>User Guidance</i> may also contain data item level guidance in relation to specific local information Governance aspects, where appropriate.</p>
Submission Process	Obtain login credentials for the data landing platform	Follow NHS England guidance to enable members of staff to be authorised to access the data landing platform to upload submission files.
	Obtain a copy of the latest submission file	Obtain a copy of the latest XML / CSV file from the <a href="#">TRUD website</a> (or API if applicable) which defines the exact structure and content of the submission file.

	Construct data submission file	<p>Use local processes and technologies to generate the submission file.</p> <p>The Information Standard does not stipulate any particular local processes that should be used to generate the required output file. It may be that some data providers will construct a temporary local data warehouse to enable them to aggregate data from a number of different sources.</p>
	Fully understand the validation reporting provided by the data landing platform	<p>The <i>Enhanced Technical Output Specification</i> defines the validations that will be undertaken when data is received at NHS England and lists all the associated error and warning messages that may be produced.</p> <p>Review this specification to ensure a thorough understanding of the errors and warnings that may be produced and also how they can be fixed for later submissions.</p>
	Understand the extracts that will be available to data providers and data available to commissioners	<p>The <i>Enhanced Technical Output Specification</i> defines the content of the extract files for providers. An XML Schema and also a CSV format (if preferred) are provided which show the structure of these extracts. The <i>XML Schema</i> and <i>CSV format</i> can be found on the <a href="#">NHS England Technology Reference data Update Distribution (TRUD)</a> portal, for which you need to log in (and create an account if needed).</p> <p>An API (Application Programming Interface) submission route may also be available for submission as an alternative. Further details of this (if available) will be published on the NHS England website.</p> <p>Data providers and commissioners will need to consider how they may use the</p>

		amended extract files. Data providers therefore should remain in contact with local commissioners in order to explain any changes to data submitted or with respect to identified data quality issues.
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### 6.1.3 Impact of v2.0 changes on existing users

The impact of the DIDS v2.0 changes will vary depending on the relevance of each change to individual providers. However, the changes to data groups and items, included in this release require amendments to the DIDS submission file. This means that all existing providers will be required to submit using a new DIDS v2.0 submission file in line with the new data submission process.

### 6.1.4 Change to submission method

The National Data Integration Tenant (NDIT) is NHS England's secure platform for collecting and managing national health and care data.

The data platform for DIDS submissions is changing from the DIDS Portal to NDIT for DIDS v2.0. DIDS v2.0 will be one of the first data collections onboarded to NDIT.

Further information on NDIT is available on the [NHS England website](#).

**All in scope activity from 1 April 2026 onwards must be submitted in DIDS v2.0 via NDIT (National Data Integration Tenant).** Whilst there is a period in which submissions of both DIDS v1.0 and DIDS v2.0 data can be submitted concurrently, only activity which took place *prior to* 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 can be submitted in DIDS v1.0 to the DIDS Portal.

### 6.1.5 Skill Mix Changes and Training

Care provider and system provider organisations will benefit from developing a local implementation strategy. The strategy should include the identification of skills gaps which might impact on the implementation and maintenance of the DIDS extract within the organisation. Staff that are impacted by this will typically include clinicians, administration personnel, informatics personnel and IT services. The data set is an output-based specification for data submission, consequently, 'in scope' services will normally collect information locally using an electronic system, whether this is a commercial or a bespoke system. To ensure systems are used in the correct manner, system providers and/or care providers will need to provide guidance for staff on how to use the local system.

Training that might need to be considered includes:

#### Technical skills:

- Data input training
- Using new technologies such as hand-held devices
- Using new applications
- Understanding of the latest DIDS Information Standard and changes from the previous version
- Uploading data from remote devices to provider network / system
- Collation of data from clinical system(s)
- Validation of extract
- Rectification of poor data quality via validation reports, details can be found in the [Enhanced Technical Output Specification \(ETOS\)](#)
- Compilation of the submission in the required XML Schema or CSV format
- Usage of the data landing platform including uploading and accessing extracts and data quality reports
- Analysis of data quality reports.

**Soft skills:**

- Interpersonal and communication skills in asking sensitive questions regarding health
- Collaboration skills between clinical and informatics staff to identify and resolve errors in data entry and address systemic data quality issues
- Information governance expertise

**Administration Personnel:**

- A local implementation strategy may require additional skills and training for administration personnel in using new functions and modules within an existing or new IT system. Additionally, administration personnel may be responsible for transcribing data to a new or existing IT system

**Informatics and IT Support Services:**

From an IT or Information Management Service perspective, skills may be required in:

- configuring local systems to capture information using NICIP or SNOMED CT codes as required
- developing and maintaining a local data warehouse

- creating a submission file from a spectrum of local IT systems
- creating uni or bidirectional interfaces between electronic systems

### Information Governance:

The DIDS facilitates the flow of confidential patient data. All organisations involved in the collection and dissemination of data that will ultimately form part of the DIDS must ensure that staff involved in data handling in any respect are fully conversant with the organisational information governance responsibilities.

For further information regarding the information governance responsibilities of care provider organisations with respect to patient confidential data, please see section 6.1.6 Information Governance below.

NHS England does not offer explicit training in any of these areas; however, we are able to help users through:

- leading regular events to help familiarise users with the data set
- response to queries sent to the NHS England queries mailbox:  
[enquiries@nhsdigital.nhs.uk](mailto:enquiries@nhsdigital.nhs.uk)
- written guidance referenced elsewhere in this document and other documents on the [DIDS webpages](#)

## 6.1.6 Information Governance

All data providers should be aware of their legal and professional obligations with regard to information governance as it applies to the mandated DIDS standard. The NHS and government publish a significant amount of guidance that can assist data providers to comply with their obligations. Some of this information is signposted below. Please also see the NHS England [Looking after information](#) web page for an overview of information published by NHS England.

- [The NHS Confidentiality Code of Practice](#) (2003)

*“This document is a guide to required practice for those who work within or under contract to NHS organisations concerning confidentiality and patients’ consent to the use of their health records.”*

- [Report of the Review of Patient Identifiable Information](#) (1997) (Caldicott Report)

*“A review commissioned in 1997 by the Chief Medical Officer of England which highlighted six key principles and made 16 specific recommendations regarding the transfer of patient-identifiable information from NHS organisations to other NHS and non-NHS organisations.”*

- [The Information Governance Review](#) (2013) (Caldicott 2):

*“The guidance in this report is intended to help health and social care professionals and staff in sharing information appropriately in their day-to-day activities. There will, however, always be exceptional and difficult circumstances where solutions are not obvious. In these situations, professionals and staff should seek advice from Caldicott Guardians or their professional bodies and use their judgement to act in the best interests of their patients and clients.”*

- [Guide to the General Data Protection Regulation \(GDPR\)](#)

*“The guide to the General Data Protection Regulation contains:*

- *information about consent*
- *an explanation of rights under GDPR*
- *descriptions of special category and criminal offence data*
- *guidance on protecting children’s data”*
- NHS England has also published [A Guide to Confidentiality in Health and Social Care](#) (2013) which provides good practice advice and guidance for healthcare staff.

All data providers must ensure compliance with the transparency/fair processing requirement of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR). To meet these requirements, data providers must make available information and guidance to patients and/or their legal guardians regarding the processing of their data (or their child’s data where applicable) for secondary uses purposes (such as service development analysis and national statistical research).

Information must be provided in a concise, transparent, intelligible and easily accessible form and should include details such as an understanding of the data in question, what it will be used for and the patient’s rights. This should be in the form of transparency/fair processing wording. Further details can be found on the [ICO GDPR webpages](#).

As a result of new data being included in the DIDS for the first time, existing users should review their transparency wording as part of a wider Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA).

NHS England is also required to provide a [Transparency notice](#). Data providers should note that the transparency requirements under GDPR replace the prior requirement to provide ‘fair processing’ or ‘privacy’ information.

### 6.1.7 Clinical Safety

The primary purpose of this collection is for secondary uses only and will therefore have no direct impact on Clinical Safety and as such is not in scope of [DCB0129 Clinical Risk Management: its Application in the Manufacture of Health IT Systems](#). Consequently, a

Clinical Safety Case Report is not required to support [DAPB1577 Diagnostic Imaging Data Set](#).

However, changes made to **DAPB1577** may require modification to the health IT system from which the collection/extraction is made. The safety implications of any such modifications must be considered by the manufacturer and all other parties involved under [DCB0129](#) and the deploying Organisation under [DCB0160](#). Additionally, where DIDS data is planned to be used to ‘enable direct care’ it is expected that Manufacturers and Organisations will take ownership of this risk and make the necessary additions to their respective Clinical Safety Case Reports.

## 7 Helpdesk/contacts

For specific enquiries relating to the DIDS Information Standard please contact NHS England via the central customer service centre:

Email: [enquiries@nhsdigital.nhs.uk](mailto:enquiries@nhsdigital.nhs.uk) (please include ‘FAO DIDS v2.0 Implementation’ in subject line)

## Appendix A: Useful web links

1	Health and Social Care Act 2012	<a href="#">Health and Social Care Act 2012</a>
2	DIDS ISN documentation	<a href="#">DAPB1577: Diagnostic Imaging Data Set - NHS England Digital</a>
3	Open Government Licence (OGL)	<a href="http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/">http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/</a>
4	NHSE Data Collections and Data Sets	<a href="#">NHS England Data Collections and Data Sets webpage</a>
5	DIDS Directions	<a href="#">Diagnostic imaging data set Directions 2016 - NHS England Digital</a>
6	TRUD website	<a href="https://isd.digital.nhs.uk/trud/user/guest/group/0/home">https://isd.digital.nhs.uk/trud/user/guest/group/0/home</a>
7	Information Governance information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">The NHS Confidentiality Code of Practice (2003)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Report of the Review of Patient Identifiable Information (1997) (Caldicott Report)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">The Information Governance Review (2013) (Caldicott 2):</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Guide to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">A Guide to Confidentiality in Health and Social Care</a></li> </ul>
8	Transparency Notice	<a href="#">Transparency notice</a>