

Data Coordination Board

Information Standards Notice – Change

Acting under delegated authority from the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, 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	DCB0086 Amd 71/2020
Name	Data Security and Protection Toolkit, Version 3.1
Approval date	28 October 2020
Publication date	10 December 2020
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.</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. For 2020-21 the original release of the Toolkit (Version 3.0, Amd 89/2019) was released but not implemented. This release (Version 3.1, Amd 71/2020) wholly replaces Version 3.0 and should be read as the subsequent release to Version 2.0 (Amd 9/2019).</p> <p>This release sees a reduction in the number of mandatory requirements, minor changes to the wording of the questions to remove ambiguity and an extension of the typical DSP Toolkit deadline (31 March 2021) to 30 June 2021.</p> <p>Changes have been made to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ensure achieving standards met on the DSP Toolkit is aligned with policy on Cyber Essentials Plus (CE+) for NHS Trusts, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and Commissioning Support Units (CSUs), as advised by NHSX• move the requirement for NHS Trusts, CCGs, CSUs and Arm's Length Bodies (ALBs) to submit a baseline (interim) publication to February 2021¹

¹ Note that Version 1 of this ISN incorrectly stated February 2020

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> respond to lessons learned from previous versions of the DSP Toolkit improve the targeting of requirements to different categories of organisations rationalise the evidence items which are now considered 'business as usual', or where there is overlap between evidence items. <p>A full list of changes can be found in Appendix A of the Change Specification.</p>
Scope (Health and Social Care Act 2012)	Health Services, NHS Services, Adult Social Care
Applies to	<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 Digital.</p>
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 sections 254 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, from the Department of Health and Social Care to NHS Digital. The Directions are published on the NHS Digital website.</p>
Link to further documentation	<p>The Change Specification, Requirements Specification and Implementation Guidance are available on the NHS Digital website: www.digital.nhs.uk/isce/publication/dcb0086</p> <p>Access to the DSP Toolkit is through a dedicated website: https://www.dsptoolkit.nhs.uk/</p>
Contacts	
Sponsor	Karen Dooley, Deputy Director of Cyber Security, NHSX
SRO	Neil Bennett, Chief Information Officer, NHS Digital
Business Lead	David Ingham, Senior Project Manager – Data Security Centre NHS Digital
Help Desk	<p>Full contact details – email, phone and self-service portal - are available on the DSP Toolkit website:</p> <p>https://www.dsptoolkit.nhs.uk/Home/Contact</p>
Dates	
Implementation and conformance dates	This release of the DSP Toolkit is for use in the 2020-21 financial year. All relevant organisations must have completed a DSP Toolkit assessment by 30 June 2021.
Post Implementation Review date	31 December 2022

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