

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 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 5/2019
Name	Secure Email, Version 2.2
Approval date	5 April 2019
Publication date	8 April 2019
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">• the information security of the email service• transfer of sensitive information over insecure email• access from the Internet or mobile devices• exchange of information outside the boundaries of the secure standard. <p>It excludes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• security standards for document archives• specific technical solutions for communicating with insecure email services• email systems that are not intended to process official and or personal identifiable data• technical security controls that might be used to make a more secure email system, for example two factor authentication, digital signatures.
About this change	<p>This release, Version 2.2, introduces changes which are intended to reduce the costs of implementation and align to central government changes to secure email:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• following the introduction of the Data Security and Protection Toolkit (DSPT), health and social care organisations may now use their DSPT submission instead of ISO 27001:2013 certification• an update to clarify how risks identified on the IT Health Check must be managed, reflecting the latest government guidance on anti-spoofing: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/securing-government-email.• to support transparency, email providers are now required to state on their conformance statement in which country/ countries data will be hosted.

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Scope (Health and Social Care Act 2012)	NHS Services, Health Services, Adult Social Care
Applies to	<p>This information standard applies to all health and care organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • public, private and third sector organisations commissioned in delivering publicly funded health, public health and adult social care • commissioned email service providers (any commissioned supplier providing email services within health and care) • commissioners of health and care within England.
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	<p>The Requirements Specification, Change Specification and Implementation Guidance are available on the NHS Digital website: https://digital.nhs.uk/isce/publication/dcb1596</p> <p>Further information about Secure Email is available on the NHS Digital website: https://digital.nhs.uk/services/nhsmail/the-secure-email-standard</p>
Contacts	
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Business Lead	Chris Parsons, Programme Head, NHS Digital
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Dates	
Implementation and conformance dates	Conformance with this information standard was originally due by September 2017. This Notice extends this conformance date to March 2020 in line with the contract end date for the relay email service.
Post Implementation Review date	31 October 2019

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