

# General practice transparency notice for GPES data for pandemic planning and research (COVID-19)

Information for patients explaining how your data is being processed to support vital coronavirus (COVID-19) planning and research.

This practice is supporting vital coronavirus (COVID-19) planning and research by sharing your data with NHS Digital. This transparency notice supplements our main practice privacy notice.

The health and social care system is facing significant pressures due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Health and care information is essential to deliver care to individuals, to support health, social care and other public services and to protect public health. Information will also be vital in researching, monitoring, tracking and managing the coronavirus outbreak. In the current emergency it has become even more important to share health and care information across relevant organisations. This practice is supporting vital coronavirus planning and research by sharing your data with NHS Digital, the national safe haven for health and social care data in England.

## Our legal basis for sharing data with NHS Digital

NHS Digital has been legally directed to collect and analyse patient data from all GP practices in England to support the coronavirus response for the duration of the outbreak. NHS Digital will become the controller under the General Data Protection Regulation 2016 (GDPR) of the personal data collected and analysed jointly with the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, who has directed NHS Digital to collect and analyse this data under the [COVID-19 Public Health Directions 2020](#) (COVID-19 Direction).

All GP practices in England are legally required to share data with NHS Digital for this purpose under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 (2012 Act). More information about this requirement is contained in the [data provision notice issued by NHS Digital to GP practices](#).

Under GDPR our legal basis for sharing this personal data with NHS Digital is Article 6(1)(c) - legal obligation. Our legal basis for sharing personal data relating to health, is Article

9(2)(g) – substantial public interest, for the purposes of NHS Digital exercising its statutory functions under the COVID-19 Direction.

## **The type of personal data we are sharing with NHS Digital**

The data being shared with NHS Digital will include information about patients who are currently registered with a GP practice or who have a date of death on or after 1 November 2019 whose record contains coded information relevant to coronavirus planning and research. The data contains NHS Number, postcode, address, surname, forename, sex, ethnicity, date of birth and date of death for those patients. It will also include coded health data which is held in your GP record such as details of:

- diagnoses and findings
- medications and other prescribed items
- investigations, tests and results
- treatments and outcomes
- vaccinations and immunisations

We will not share details for any patient who has registered a Type 1 objection with the practice. Where a Type 1 objection has been registered, we will not share your personal identifiable confidential information outside of the GP practice, except when it is being used for the purposes of your care and treatment or where there is a legal requirement to do so. Although there is a legal requirement to do so here, NHS Digital has agreed with the National Data Guardian, the British Medical Association and the Royal College of General Practitioners to respect Type 1 objections.

## **Our purposes for processing personal data**

The health and social care system is facing significant pressures due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Health and care information is essential to deliver care to individuals, to support health, social care and other public services and to protect public health. Information will also be vital in researching, monitoring, tracking and managing the coronavirus outbreak. Accurate and up to date data is also essential in managing the coronavirus outbreak.

To support the response to the outbreak, NHS Digital has been legally directed to collect and analyse healthcare information about patients from their GP record for the duration of the coronavirus emergency period. The British Medical Association, the Royal College of General Practitioners and the National Data Guardian are all supportive of this approach.

NHS Digital will analyse the data and securely and lawfully share data with other appropriate organisations described below for coronavirus response purposes only. These purposes include:

- carrying out vital research into treatments and vaccines for the virus, including clinical trials
- identifying coronavirus trends and risks to public health
- diagnosing and monitoring the effects of coronavirus
- controlling and helping to prevent the spread of the virus

- planning and providing health, social care and other public services in response to coronavirus (COVID-19)
- helping clinicians, scientists, public health bodies and the government to provide guidance and develop policies to respond to the outbreak
- monitoring and managing the outbreak

- **How we obtain your personal data**

- NHS Digital collects this data from general practices in England, who are legally required to provide this data. The data is extracted from GP clinical systems by the clinical system supplier and transferred to NHS Digital using the [General Practice Extraction Service](#) (GPES). This is an existing secure data extraction tool which is used to extract other data from general practice clinical systems.

- **Where we store the data**

- NHS Digital only stores and processes your personal data for this data collection within the United Kingdom.
- Fully anonymised data, for example statistical data (which does not allow you to be identified), may be stored and processed outside of the UK.

Data will only be made available in response to appropriate requests from data applicants who need it for coronavirus purposes including improving care, disease monitoring, planning and research. More information on how to request this data can be found on the [NHS Digital GPES data for pandemic planning and research webpage](#).