**GPDPR (General Practice Data for Planning and Research) and Opt outs**

**WHAT IS GPDPR?**

The General Practice Data for Planning and Research (GPDPR) service is designed to collect data from GP practices to use for planning and research purposes. This will replace the previous scheme, the GPES (General Practice Extraction Service), news that will be welcomed by many. A National Audit Office review of GPES done as far back as 2015 found that the system was costly and inefficient, required significant improvement, and ultimately needed replacing. GPDPR is a new way of HS Digital said the collected data will be used ‘for better planning of healthcare services and for use in medical research’

**WHO HAS SIGNED IT OFF?**

The new service (GPDPR) has been designed to the most rigorous privacy and security standards, to meet patient expectations with regards to the confidential management of patient data.

NHS Digital has consulted with patient and privacy groups, clinicians, and technology experts, as well as with the British Medical Association (BMA), Royal College of GPs (RCGP), the National Data Guardian (NDG) and multiple other organisations and communities across the health and care system.

Any data which directly identifies an individual will be pseudonymised and then encrypted before it leaves a GP practice. Data will only be shared with organisations who have a legal basis and meet strict criteria to use it for local, regional and national planning, policy development, commissioning,  public health and research purposes.

The new system will improve efficiency in data collection from GP practices, and significantly increase the speed and efficiency of providing appropriate access to that data, reducing the burden on GPs. Patients can have greater confidence that their data is being used in ways which preserve their confidentiality, as a result of the rigorous, standardised and unified approach to data management and access.

NHS Digital is committed to complete transparency with patients and the public about the collection and use of health data. We will continue to publish detailed information about our data policies, protocols and systems and we will continue to publish details of all data we share via our data release register.

**WHEN IS IT STARTING?**

Initially it was set to launch on 23rd June, but after discussion this has been pushed back to 1st September to allow practices more time to educate staff and to give patients longer to consider their options.

**WHAT DOES THE PRACTICE NEED TO DO?**

Make sure staff are aware of these changes and update their privacy notices (a legal requirement which outlines how we manage patient data).

**WHAT DATA WILL BE COLLECTED?**

Data in primary care is of particular value because it encompasses so many conditions, some of which are treated primarily (or entirely) in primary care settings. This data can be used to more accurately predict the demand for future care provision.

The data will consist of symptoms, observations, diagnoses, results, allergies, referrals, immunisations, appointments, sexual health and mental health, as well as the patient’s sex, ethnicity, and the staff who have treated them.

The data that will not be collected includes names, addresses, written notes from doctors, images, any information over 10 years old (old medicines or appointment data), or any data that GPs cannot ordinarily share by law – including IVF treatment or gender reassignment data.

**WHAT WILL THE DATA BE USED FOR?**

A good example of the need for high-quality, insightful data is in tracking the long-term impact of the Coronavirus pandemic. Using patient data we can learn more about the virus and how it affects people. Linked to this is the area of healthcare inequalities, something which the Covid-19 crisis has highlighted repeatedly. Data can be used to study how people of different ethnic backgrounds access healthcare, and how their outcomes may differ compared to other groups. Finally, this sort of data will allow research and development work to confirm the safety and efficacy of things like vaccines, and investigate benefit/risk ratios.

**DO PATIENTS HAVE A CHOICE?**

GP surgeries cannot opt out of the scheme, but patients can, in what is known as a Type 1 opt-out. Patients who do not consent to share their data should submit a form to their practice.

[Click here to register your opt-out through the National Data Opt Out service on nhs.uk](https://www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters/manage-your-choice/)

[Click here to download an opt out form](file:///\\K83041fs01\shared\MINIH\My%20Documents\GPDPR\Type+1+Opt-out+form.docx) and send it back for the practice to record.

The completed form can be returned to the surgery via our email address: [contact.stlukesduston@nhs.net](mailto:contact.stlukesduston@nhs.net)