

Revisions to the HSCIC (Establishment of Information Systems for NHS Services: Collection and Analysis of Primary Care Data) Directions 2013

September 2014

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Purpose

1. To notify the Board of anticipated revisions to the HSCIC (establishment of information Systems for NHS Services: Collection and Analysis of Primary Care Data) Directions 2013.

Background

2. Under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 (the Act), the HSCIC is empowered to collect information from any health service provider, when it has been directed or requested to do so. It can be directed to establish information systems by the Secretary of State for Health or by NHS England, and can be requested to do so by other bodies. These Directions are legally binding and must be complied with by the HSCIC; receipt of such Directions effectively triggers HSCIC powers to mandate the collection of the required data.
3. The HSCIC (establishment of information Systems for NHS Services: Collection and Analysis of Primary Care Data) Directions 2013 establish the legal basis for the HSCIC to implement a routine collection of primary care data from GP practices with the sole intent that data should be linked to Hospital Episode Statistics (HES). At the January 2013 meeting, the HSCIC Board formally accepted these Directions.
4. The collection of primary care data is based on the proposal that NHS England took to the General Practice Extraction Service (GPES) Independent Advisory Group (IAG) in March 2013 to enable access to a linked primary care-HES dataset for commissioning purposes. The primary care data collection is based on four groups of data: demographics, events, referrals and prescriptions and the full specification and further information about the dataset can be found at: <http://www.hscic.gov.uk/gpes/caredata>.
5. These Directions are limited to commissioning. Revisions may be required to reflect the programme's application to the General Practice Extraction Service Independent Advisory Group (GPES IAG) in September for which we are seeking approval for access for non-commissioning purposes. The current directions are limited to access for commissioning purposes only. In addition, some minor changes to the Directions may be required for example a legal view will be sought on whether any minor changes are required to reference the Care Act 2014.

Actions Required of the Board

6. For information and to agree to a 'Chair's action' to review the amended Directions ahead of the November HSCIC Board meeting.