

APPENDIX 4: Use Case Assessment

Use Case Assessment Checklist

A synthetic data request could include:

- One organisation requests another organisation to generate a synthetic dataset for a specific project
- An organisation wishes to establish a synthetic dataset for multiple potential projects / purposes
- An organisation (or End User) requests to access or use a synthetic dataset that was created for a different purpose or use case (see the section on 'Re-using, re-purposing or re-synthesising synthetic datasets' in the framework above)

The accountable decision-maker must assess the use case for the synthetic data request against the following three tests. Each of these three tests must be met in order for the synthetic data request to proceed to the next steps:

Test	What must be met
1.	<p>The use case is for a clear 'public benefit' purpose related to providing health services, and where the expected benefits from the use case are related to consumer health or health system outcomes.</p> <p><i>For the purposes of this framework, the types of use cases that may meet this test include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Research-related activities, where the research is for a public benefit purpose. These activities could include conducting PoC analysis and feasibility testing, carrying out preliminary research tasks; or using PoC results to vet research proposals</i>• <i>Tasks related to the management, planning and funding of healthcare system activities, where the task does not require real data</i>• <i>Education and training activities that are related to analysing health data for beneficial purposes (such as hackathons that test models for generating insights into population health)</i>• <i>Healthcare technology development and improvement activities that are for a clear public benefit purpose</i>
2.	<p>The stated aim for creating and managing the synthetic dataset is to achieve a 'de-identified' dataset for the use case, that significantly minimises the risk to individuals compared to if the source dataset (i.e. real data) was used for the use case.</p>

3.	The organisation that collected and holds the source data has set expectations with health consumers about how their health information will be used through suitable public messaging.
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If the Data Custodian is not satisfied that the synthetic data request meets these tests, an alternative lawful privacy pathway must be determined (see Appendix 8 for guidance on dealing with complex synthetic data requests).

Further Resources



Relevant organisational policies that may need to form part of an organisation's use case assessment can be set out / linked to here

- WA Department of Health, Synthetic Data: Governance and Technical Guidelines for the Generation and Use of Synthetic Data
- ...