

04_API_Research

Healthcare Services Integration Research (December 2025)

Primary Recommended API: Directory of Healthcare Services API – Version 3
URL/Documentation: <https://digital.nhs.uk/developer/api-catalogue/directory-of-healthcare-services/version-3> **Status:** Active and current (as of December 2025).

Description: Provides comprehensive search for NHS organisations and services, including GPs, pharmacies, urgent treatment centres, hospitals, etc., by postcode, type, or location. Includes organisation types and real-time data.

Why This API?

- Direct successor/replacement for older service search APIs.
- Supports location-based queries (e.g., nearest pharmacies eligible for Pharmacy First).
- Free access with registration; open for public/healthcare use.
- Returns name, address, ODS code, contact details.

Alternative/Complementary API: Organisation Data Service (ODS) ORD API **Status:** Active but with deprecation timeline (no new development after December 31, 2025; migrate to newer FHIR versions long-term). Still fully operational in 2025. **Use:** Detailed organisation reference data (ODS codes, roles).

Sign-Up and Usage Steps:

1. Register on NHS England Developer Portal.
2. Request access (open/low-barrier for non-sensitive uses).
3. Example Query: Search pharmacies by postcode → Returns list with distances/names.

Fallback Strategies:

- Mock data for demo/offline.
- Cached public lists if rate limits hit.

Sample Integration Plan: User postcode → API call → Display top 5 nearest relevant services.

5. File Name: 05_Accessibility_Plan.pdf

Comprehensive Accessibility Compliance Plan (WCAG 2.1 Level AA)

Overall Commitment The application will achieve and maintain full WCAG 2.1 Level AA conformance to ensure usability for all, including disabled users (e.g., screen readers, keyboard navigation).

Key Success Criteria and Planned Implementations:

- **Perceivable:** Alt text for icons; sufficient color contrast (4.5:1 ratio); resizable text.
- **Operable:** Full keyboard navigation; no time limits; clear focus indicators.

- **Understandable:** Simple language (reading age ~12); consistent navigation; error suggestions.
- **Robust:** Semantic HTML; ARIA landmarks/roles; compatible with assistive tech.

Specific Features:

- High-contrast mode toggle.
- Screen reader announcements for dynamic content (e.g., pathway results).
- Mobile-responsive layout.
- Language: Clear, non-medical jargon where possible.

Validation Tools and Process:

- Automated: Google Lighthouse, WAVE, axe DevTools.
- Manual: Keyboard testing, NVDA/VoiceOver screen reader checks.
- Target: 100% AA compliance in final audits (reports to be generated).

Timeline: Integrated from development start; final audit December 2025.