



NHS England
Quarry House
Leeds LS2 7UE

Simon Bolton
Interim Chief Executive
NHS Digital
7 & 8 Wellington Place
Leeds
West Yorkshire
LS1 4AP

30th March 2022

Dear Simon,

1. Booking and Referral Standard Direction 2022

- 1.1 I am writing on behalf of the National Health Service Commissioning Board (known as **NHS England**) to provide Directions to the Health and Social Care Information Centre, known as and hereafter referred to in these Directions as **NHS Digital**.
- 1.2 These Directions are given in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 254(1) and (6), and section 304(9), (10) and (12) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012¹ (**the 2012 Act**) and Regulation 32 of the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (Constitution and Functions) and the Health and Social Care Information Centre (Functions) Regulations 2013² (**the Regulations**).
- 1.3 In exercising the activities and functions described in these Directions, NHS Digital must have regard to such priorities, policies, advice or guidance of NHS England as NHS England may notify in writing from time to time to NHS Digital.

¹ 2012 c.7

² S.I. 2013/259

- 1.4 These Directions are to be known as the **Booking and Referral Standard Directions 2022** and come into force on the date signed.

2. Purpose

- 2.1 The purpose of these Directions (**Purpose**) is to enable NHS Digital to develop an interoperability standard for patient record systems and a related Application Programming Interface (**Booking and Referral Standard Service**) that enables booking and referral information to be sent between NHS service providers quickly, safely and in a format that is useful to clinicians.

3. Systems delivery functions for the Booking and Referral Standard Directions

- 3.1 In accordance with Regulation 32 of the Regulations, NHS England directs NHS Digital to exercise such systems delivery functions of NHS England as are necessary for it to enable and facilitate the Booking and Referral Standard Service described in the Purpose.
- 3.2 NHS Digital is directed to exercise the functions in accordance with the Booking and Referral Standard Specification (the **Requirements Specification**) and the Information Model (the **Technical Specification**) issued with these Directions, which may be updated periodically (within the confines of the scope set out in these Directions) by NHS Digital and agreed in writing by NHS England (collectively, **the Specifications**).
- 3.3 NHS England directs NHS Digital to exercise the functions described above in accordance with the service levels, support and monitoring requirements, and the reporting and governance requirements notified by NHS England in writing to NHS Digital as at the date these Directions come into force, or as those requirements are amended and notified by an authorised officer of NHS England in writing to NHS Digital from time to time.

4. Establishing and operating information systems for the Booking and Referral Standard Directions

- 4.1 In accordance with sections 254(1) and 254(6) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, NHS England directs NHS Digital to establish and operate such systems for the collection and analysis of information as are necessary to provide the Booking and Referral Standard Services.
- 4.2 NHS Digital is directed to carry out the activities above in accordance with the Specifications and generally in such a way as to enable and facilitate the Purpose described above.

5. Requirement for these Directions

- 5.1 In accordance with section 254(3) of the 2012 Act, NHS England considers that the information which could be obtained by complying with these Directions is information which it is necessary or expedient for NHS England to have in relation to its exercise of functions in connection with the provision of NHS services.
- 5.2 In accordance with section 254(5) of the 2012 Act, NHS Digital has been consulted before these Directions have been given.

6. Fees and Accounts

- 6.1 Pursuant to section 254(7) of the 2012 Act and regulation 32(2)(b) of the Regulations, NHS Digital is entitled to charge NHS England a reasonable fee in respect of the cost of NHS Digital complying with these Directions.
- 6.2 NHS Digital must keep proper accounts, and proper records in relation to the accounts, in connection with the Booking and Referral Standard Directions 2022.

7. Duration

NHS Digital is directed to operate Booking and Referral Standard Directions system delivery function and operate the related Information System referred to above (the **Directed Functions**) unless and until revoked by a further direction or instructed in writing by an authorised officer of NHS England on reasonable notice to suspend and/or permanently cease the Directed Functions. Where a Directed Function is to cease, such written request will also contain a direction to revoke these Directions in accordance with the timescales and arrangements to be agreed with NHS Digital.

8. Review of these Directions

These Directions will be reviewed when the Specifications are amended. This review will include consultation with NHS Digital.

Yours sincerely



Signed by authority of NHS England

Date signed: 29/03/2022

ANNEXES - BOOKING AND REFERRAL STANDARD DIRECTIONS 2022

Published alongside the Booking and Referral Standard Directions 2022 are:

Annex A - Booking and Referral Standard Requirements Specification

Annex B - Information Model (Technical Specification)