

# A POSTER OF ETHICS

## Objectives

- To explore the ethical issues pertaining to the creation of a database containing NHS patient data and the distribution of this data.
- To look into the different types of data that the hospital will have acquired, and how the different types must be handled.
- To explore the laws and legislation surrounding the collection and distribution of personal data.

## The Issues

### Obtaining the Data:

For personal data to be obtained lawfully, it requires that the patient gives consent so that his/her data can be collected & distributed.

Consent is given via either written or oral formats, usually via a consent form which details the transaction.

### Confidentiality:

If the patient has stated that they do not want their data to be shares with third parties or made public, then the hospital is obligated to fulfil this request.

### Protection:

The NHS is obligated to protect the sensitive data of the users

### Physical-Protection

The data must be stored in safe and protected locations and hardware (Passwords & Encryption).

## Types of data

### Personal data:

This data that can be used to uniquely identify an individual.

### Confidential Data:

Data that has been agreed to be kept confidential.

### Sensitive data:

Data of a sensitive nature, such as : Race, Ethnic origin, Political opinion, Religious beliefs, Physical/mental condition , etc.

## Laws & Legislation

### The Data Protection Act (1998):

This act defines the way in which businesses and institutions handle personal data; To summarize it states that:

The data should be used fairly and lawfully,

Used for the specified purposes only,

The Data is always kept accurate,

The data is kept for no longer than necessary,

The data is kept safe and secure,

The data is not transferred outside the UK without permission and protection.

### The Freedom Of Information act (2000):

This act states that, any person can request data that is held in the public sector; Also the authorities are obligated to publish certain information about their activities.

### Human Rights act (1998)

States that a person has a right to privacy, and personal and family life must be respected.