

Data Provision Notice

Ambulance Data Set Pilot (ADS)

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Contents

Background	3
Purpose of the collection	3
Benefits of the collection	3
Legal basis for the collection, analysis, publication and dissemination	4
Persons consulted	5
Scope of the collection	6
Form of the collection	7
Manner of the collection	8
Period of the collection	8
Data quality	8
Burden of the collection	8
Steps taken by NHS Digital to minimise the burden of collection	8
Detailed burden assessment findings	8
Appendix A – CAD data items	10

Background

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 (the Act) gives the Health and Social Care Information Centre, known as **NHS Digital** and hereafter referred to by this name, statutory powers, under section 259(1)(a), to require data from health or social care bodies, or organisations that provide publicly funded health or adult social care in England, where it has been Directed to establish an information system by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care or NHS England, or as part of a Mandatory Request from another organisation.

The data, as specified by NHS Digital in this Data Provision Notice (DPN), is required to support a Direction from NHS England to NHS Digital. Therefore, organisations that are in scope of the notice are legally required, under section 259(5) of the Act, to provide the data in the form and manner specified below.

An Ambulance Data Set is to be piloted from November 2020 and this DPN is to formalise the requirement for the data to support that and subsequent pilot activity.

Purpose of the collection

The NHS Long-Term Plan 2019 sets out a commitment to develop an ambulance data set to:

“...bring together data from all ambulance services nationally in order to follow and understand patient journeys from the ambulance service into other urgent and emergency healthcare settings”.

The Ambulance Data Set project seeks to deliver that long-term plan commitment. The project is owned by NHS England and NHS Improvement, operating with the authority of the Urgent and Emergency Care Transformation programme under the title of the ‘Joint Ambulance Improvement Programme’.

In order to satisfy the ambition described in the Long-Term Plan, the Ambulance Data Set must be capable of being linked to the Emergency Care Data Set (ECDS).

Benefits of the collection

The pilot will assess whether the Ambulance Data Set can be used to enable Ambulance Services to identify variation and best practice to advance both clinical and operational delivery at a local and national level and improve patient care through secondary use analysis (i.e. not for the direct care of the patient).

NHS England and NHS Improvement requires accurate Ambulance data for the following types of activity:

- 111/999 Emergency Operations Centre (data from Computer Aided Dispatch [CAD] systems)
- Ambulance dispatch (data from Electronic Patient Record [EPR] systems).

This includes activity undertaken by the English Ambulance Service providers, where the data required is as defined in the Ambulance Data Set Data Content Specification.

The following entries are an extract from the ‘Informatic Burden Review’ which shows how the Ambulance Data Set is expected to reduce burden:

- Definitive source – enables collection of data once in a standard format enabling subsequent reporting of:

- Model Ambulance
- Daily NHSI Metrics (BI)
- RT NHSI Metrics
- NHSEI Winter Room
- Weekly ARP Dashboard
- NDOG Handover Information
- Police Data
- Prison Data

It is possible that the Ambulance Data Set can also achieve further burden reductions in the following areas.

- National FOI Requests
- AACE data requests for specifics
- NDOG data requests
- NASMED data requests
- Clinical Coding review data requests
- Go live data requests for national system changes
- Clinical Practice reviews and comparison data requests
- National Clinical Audits data requests

In addition to the above, the pilot will also assess whether collection of the Ambulance Data Set can support the following standards and/or improvements:

- Data Quality - ensuring submissions meet minimum data quality standards and identifying and feeding back to providers of data on areas for improved completeness, timeliness etc. of data submission.
- Linking Ambulance Data – trialling linkage of certain Ambulance Data to the equivalent items in the Emergency Care Data Set (ECDS) including analysing and assessing the matched data to determine whether it meets the discovery objectives and refining the matching process to ensure the data can satisfy the commitments in the NHS Long Term Plan. In the future, where there is a legal basis to do so, providing the ambulance service with information that it doesn't already have about patient outcomes, by disseminating data that is linked to ECDS and is capable of being linked to other data sets.
- Statistics - whether patient level data sets can be used for publication of statistics and to answer parliamentary questions.
- Planning - providing Ambulance Data to national and local organisations for use as the basis for annual planning rounds to assess changes in demand for and use of services to inform service provision for future years.
- Supporting authorised research and planning - to better inform delivery of effective and efficient healthcare services in the future.

Legal basis for the collection, analysis, publication and dissemination

Under sections 254(1) and (6) of the Act, NHS Digital has been Directed by NHS England to establish and operate a system for the collection and analysis of the Ambulance Data Set from three Ambulance Services in England that have agreed to participate in a pilot collection. The initial pilot participants are:

- North West Ambulance Service
- West Midlands Ambulance Service
- Yorkshire Ambulance Service.

The Ambulance Services Data Set Discovery Directions 2020 are published [here](#).

This information is required by NHS Digital under section 259(1)(a) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

In line with section 259(5) of the Act, all organisations in scope, in England, must comply with the requirement and provide information to NHS Digital in the form, manner and period specified in this Data Provision Notice.

This Notice is issued in accordance with the procedure published as part of NHS Digital duty under section 259(8).

Publication

NHS Digital is directed not to publish any information obtained by complying with the Ambulance Services Data Set Discovery Directions 2020.

Dissemination

In accordance with section 261(2)(e) of the 2012 Act, despite the prohibition on publication, NHS Digital may disseminate under section 261(1) of the 2012 Act the information it has obtained by complying with these Directions to NHS England and NHS Improvement, where section 261(1) would otherwise not apply due to the restriction on publication, and where it would be lawful for NHS Digital to do so.

Under section 261(3)(a) of the 2012 Act, NHS Digital is directed to use its discretionary powers under section 261(4) of the 2012 Act to disseminate the information collected under the Directions to the Ambulance Service that provided the information for the purposes of data quality and validation.

NHS Digital is directed not to exercise its powers under section 261(1) and 261(4) of the 2012 Act other than to disseminate information to NHS England and NHS Improvement and to the Ambulance Services that provided the information where it would be lawful for NHS Digital to do so. Therefore, there will be no other dissemination of the pilot data.

Access to the data will be via the NHS Digital Data Access Environment and will be managed via NHS Digital's Data Access Request Service (DARS), where relevant this will be with oversight by the Independent Group Advising on the Release of Data (IGARD). This will include establishing a valid legal basis for any given dissemination.

Organisations receiving data from NHS Digital are documented in the NHS Digital Data Release Register: <https://digital.nhs.uk/services/data-access-request-service-dars/register-of-approved-data-releases>

Persons consulted

Consultation has been undertaken by NHS England and NHS Improvement and involved the following:

East of England Ambulance Service
East Midlands Ambulance Service
Isle of Wight Ambulance Service
London Ambulance Service
North East Ambulance Service
North West Ambulance Service

South Central Ambulance Service
South East Coast Ambulance Service
South Western Ambulance Service
West Midlands Ambulance Service
Yorkshire Ambulance Service
AACE Chief Executives Group
Ambulance Leadership Forum (ALF)
National Medical Directors Group (NASMED)
National Director of Operations Group (NDOG)
National Heads of IM&T Group
National Head of Communications Group (NACOM)
Ambulance Lead Paramedics Group (ALPG)
National Ambulance Information Group (NAIG)
National Ambulance Urgent and Emergency Care Group (NAUECG)
National Heads of Emergency Operations Centre Group
AACE Clinical Coding Review Group
College of Paramedics (CoP)
Ambulance Medical Priority Dispatch System (AMPDS) Representative
NHS Pathways Team (NHS Digital)
NHS England/NHS Improvement Analytics Team
NHS England/Improvement Communications Team
Avoidable Conveyance Steering Group
Ambulance Transformation Forum
Clinical Quality Indicators Sub-Group
National Ambulance Transformation Monthly Update Meeting
National Ambulance Commissioner Network (NACN)
Model Hospital Team
Mental Health Steering Group
Patient Level Information and Costing System (PLICS)
National Ambulance Strategic Partnership Forum (NASPF)
Professional Records and Standards Body (PRSB)
Sheffield School of Health and Related Research (SchARR)
Commissioning Support Units (CSU)/Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs)
Public Health
Royal College of Midwives
Data, Analysis and Intelligence Service
Specialised Commissioning (NHSEI)
Pricing Team (NHSEI)
Internal review by NHS Digital Teams: Data Model & Dictionary Terminology & Classifications Delivery Data Set Development Service Secondary Care Analysis DPO & IG Compliance PLICS

Scope of the collection

Under section 259(1)(a) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, this Notice is served in accordance with the procedure published as part of the NHS Digital duty under section 259(8) on the Ambulance Services taking part in the Ambulance Data Set pilot. The initial pilot participants are:

- North West Ambulance Service
- West Midlands Ambulance Service
- Yorkshire Ambulance Service.

In line with the national data opt-out operational policy guidance, national data opt-outs will NOT apply to the submission of Ambulance Data Set pilot data to NHS Digital by the Ambulance Services participating in the pilot, as the data collection is legally required under section 259 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

National data opt-outs will be applied to any dissemination of data collected via this DPN, including any products derived from such data, in line with the national data opt-out operation policy guidance: <https://digital.nhs.uk/services/national-data-opt-out-programme/operational-policy-guidance-document>

Any dissemination of such data by NHS Digital will be subject to robust controls via the Data Access Request Service (DARS) and scrutiny from the Independent Group Advising on the Release of Data (IGARD) as necessary: <https://digital.nhs.uk/services/data-access-request-service-dars>

Restricted data (including Legally Restricted)

Legal restrictions must be applied to the processing of Ambulance Data Set pilot data including the exclusion of patient information relating to In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) and gender recognition where this information can identify the data subject:

- NHS Digital MUST NOT collect personal information about legally restricted terms relating to In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) or Gender Recognition in line with the restrictions imposed by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 (as amended by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008) or the Gender Recognition Act 2004.
- In order to comply with the above Acts, any records containing procedure codes relating to IVF or Gender reassignment MUST be anonymised at source, with all patient identifiers removed, prior to submission to NHS Digital.
- The latest list of anonymous and restricted codes which MUST be applied is available below and through any update made by NHS Digital to the national list of Legally Restricted Codes, see: [Legally restricted codes](#).
- Any records containing these diagnosis or procedure codes which NHS Digital inadvertently receives will be automatically anonymised within Data Processing Services (DPS).

Under section 259(5) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 the organisations specified in the above Scope must comply with the Form, Manner and Period requirements below.

Form of the collection

Activity to be submitted

Ambulance pilot data must be submitted to NHS Digital in accordance with the data content pilot requirements, supplied as an appendix to this DPN. As the activity is at pilot stage, the data content requirements may be subject to change.

The number of pilot data items to submit will increase incrementally, building towards approximately 50 CAD data items, with around a further 50 EPR items to follow. The ambition is that some of these data items (currently expected to be around 15) will be submitted in 'near real-time' (where 'near real-time' is defined as 15-minute intervals) and the remainder are to be submitted daily.

The full data set specification for the Ambulance Data Set, including data items, formats, mandatory status, permitted values, and definitions will be available on the NHS Data Dictionary if the pilot outcomes are met.

Manner of the collection

Every 15 minutes, where data has been updated, the Ambulance Services Data Warehouses will send the 15 data items in batch or record level to the Ambulance Analytics API hosted on the NHS Digital API Management Platform.

The remaining data items will be securely submitted to NHS Digital in FHIR format via the DPS. Further details of how to submit Ambulance Data to DPS is available in the guidance documentation on the NHS Digital website: <https://digital.nhs.uk/developer/api-catalogue/ambulance-analytics-fhir>

Period of the collection

The Ambulance Data Set is to be piloted during two periods; with CAD data being flowed to NHS Digital from November 2020 to 31 August 2021 and EPR data scheduled from October 2021.

Data quality

The pilot process is being guided by an 'Ambulance Data Set – Pilot Outcomes and Expectations' document written by NHS Digital and approved by the Ambulance Data Set Project Board in August 2020, which includes the development of data quality standards.

NHS Digital will assess the pilot data and the extent to which it does or does not satisfy the pilot assessment criteria, which will enable the design of the data quality standards that will be applied in live service should the pilot prove successful.

Burden of the collection

Steps taken by NHS Digital to minimise the burden of collection

If the pilot is successful and live service begins, the Ambulance Data Set will support the reporting of ambulance activity from all emergency Ambulance Service providers in England to meet a wide range of national and local requirements, and as such, will reduce the need for separate data flows (see list in Benefits section above).

In seeking to minimise the data collection burden imposed on others, in line with sections 253 (2a) and 265(3) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, NHS Digital has an assessment process to validate and challenge the level of burden incurred through introducing new information standards, collections and data extractions.

This assurance is carried out by the Data Standards and Assurance Service (DSAS) which assures burden assessment evidence provided as part of the overarching Data Coordination Board (DCB) process. The DCB, acting under authority of the Secretary of State, oversees the development, assurance and acceptance of information standards, data collections and data extractions for the health and social care system in England.

Detailed burden assessment findings

This DPN relates to pilot collection of data and there is no requirement to undertake burden assessment of collections during a pilot or discovery stage. However, there is an expectation

that overall there will be a reduction in burden, but this remains to be tested and assessed as part of the pilot process.

Appendix A – CAD data items

List of CAD data items that it is planned should flow by the end of the CAD pilot phase.

Data Group	ADS Reference Number	Data Item
Not applicable	ADS0	Submitting organisation code
Call	ADS1	Organisation Identifier (Code of Provider)
Call	ADS2A	Call Date
ADSDI	ADS2B	Call Origin
Call	ADS3	Call Identifier
Call	ADS4	Stop Codes
Call	ADS5	HCP Flag (derived)
Call	ADS6	IFT Flag (derived)
Call	ADS7	111 Flag
Call	ADS8	AQI Incident Flag
Call	ADS9	Clock Start Date Time
Call Triage	ADS10	Time call connected
Call Triage	ADS11	Time call answered
Call Triage	ADS12	Cat 1 Early Prediction Flag
Call Triage	ADS13	Time Cat 1 Early Prediction established
Call Triage	ADS14	Chief Complaint (Call Triage Code)
Call Triage	ADS15	Initial Response Category
Call Triage	ADS16	AMPDS Triage Disposition
Call Triage	ADS17	Pathways Triage Disposition
Call Triage	ADS18	SG Code (Symptom Group)
Call Triage	ADS19	SD Code (Symptom Discriminator)
Call Triage	ADS20	Reporting Response Category
Call Triage	ADS21	Time Dispatch Code Established
Call Triage	ADS22	Incident location
Call Triage	ADS23	Incident location postcode
Call Triage	ADS24	Time Call ended
Call Triage	ADS33	Treatment Type
Call Triage	ADS25	CCG Code

Data Group	ADS Reference Number	Data Item
Incident response times	ADS26	AQI Response Time
Incident response times	ADS27	Clock Stop Date Time
Response details	ADS34	Response Type
Response details	ADS35	Highest Skill level on Vehicle
Response details	ADS36	Call sign
Response details	ADS37	Responding organisation type
Resource response times	ADS38	Time Resource Allocated
Resource response times	ADS39	Time Resource Mobilised
Resource response times	ADS40	Time Resource Arrived on Scene
Resource response times	ADS41	Time Stood Down
Episode outcome times	ADS42	Time Resource Left Scene
Episode outcome times	ADS43	Time Resource Arrived at Receiving Location
Episode outcome times	ADS44	Time of Patient Handover
Episode outcome times	ADS45	Time Clear
Patient demographics	ADS55	Date of Birth
Patient demographics	ADS59	NHS Number
See and Convey Episode outcome	ADS93A	Receiving Location Type (CAD)
See and Convey Episode outcome	ADS94A	Receiving Location Site Code (CAD)

For further information

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