

National infrastructure for secondary use of health data: Experiences from England

Jake Marshall AdvFEDIP, Imperial College London

Policy paper

Memorandum of understanding between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Kingdom of Sweden regarding life sciences (text only)

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British Embassy
Stockholm



Managing the health of the nation



Our Future Health



Karolinska Institutet
171 85 Stockholm
Sweden



Office for
Life Sciences

THE ANNUAL LIFE SCIENCE LECTURE FOR THE UK-SWEDEN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING



Guidance

UK-Sweden Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in research and innovation

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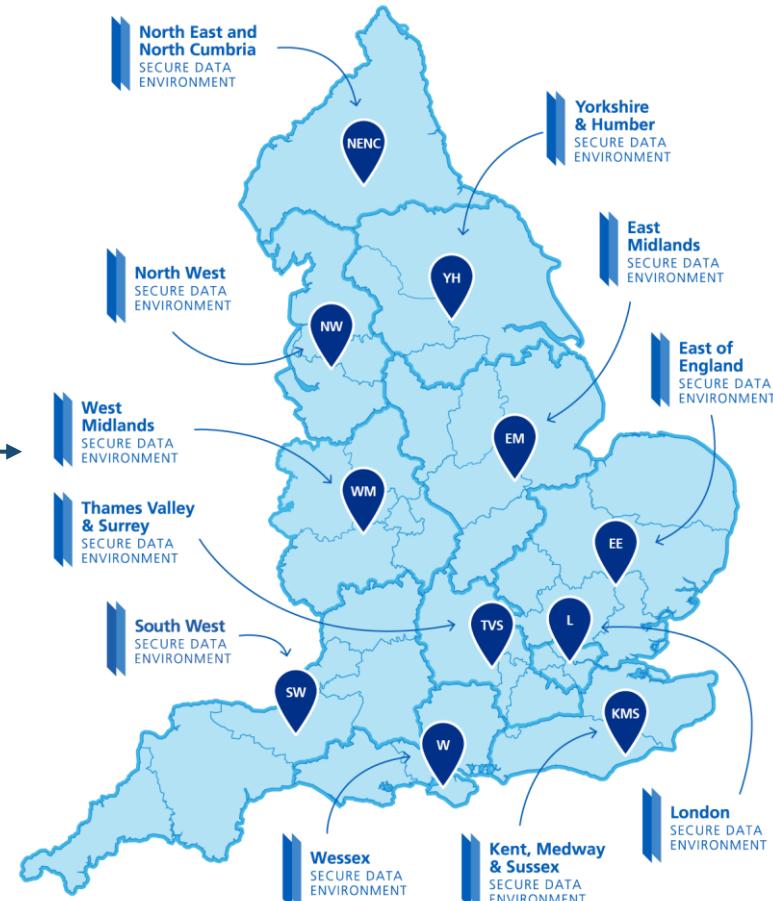


Secure, rapid and at-scale access to health data in England



2022

> 7,000
data access
points for
research
previously



2022

HDRUK
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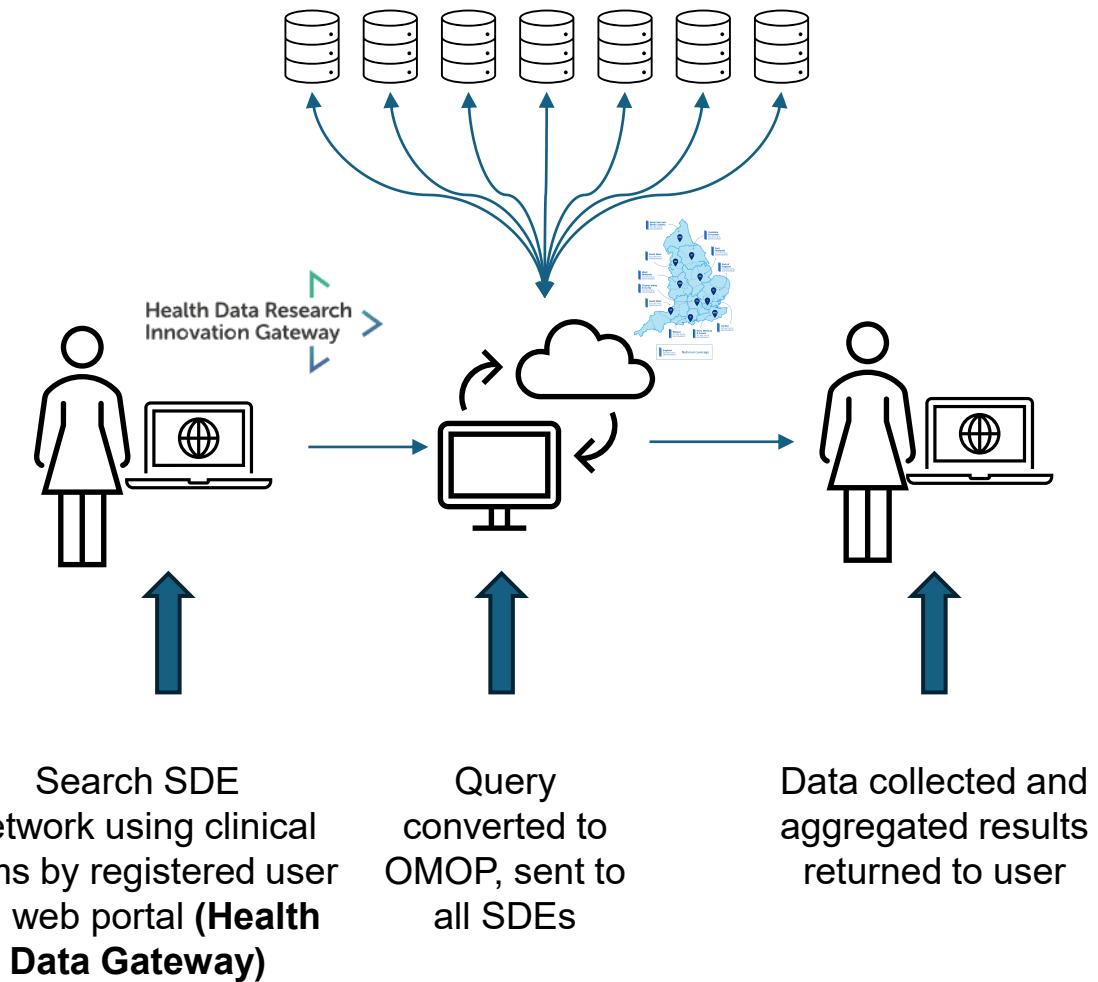
NHS Research SDE Network agrees to adopt common data model

15 August 2023 | Author: Dr Chris Russell, Head of Delivery, Data for R&D at NHS England

Our healthcare system is complex and has evolved over time rather than developing in line with an agreed grand plan. Health data is no different and while the benefits from a more standardised approach to data are enormous, achieving this presents a significant challenge. Dr Chris Russell, Head of Delivery, Data for Research and Development at NHS England, discusses how adoption of a common data model can help.

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OMOP at scale and pace: SDE Network-wide cohort discovery



OMOP Cohort Discovery Minimum Data Model	
CDM Table Name	CDM Field Names
CONDITION_OCCURRENCE	condition_occurrence_id, person_id, condition_concept_id, condition_start_date
DEATH	person_id, death_date, death_type_concept_id, cause_concept_id
DRUG_EXPOSURE	drug_exposure_id, person_id, drug_concept_id, drug_exposure_start_date
MEASUREMENT	measurement_id, person_id, measurement_concept_id, measurement_date, value_as_number, value_as_concept_id
OBSERVATION	observation_id, person_id, observation_concept_id, observation_date
PERSON	person_id, gender_concept_id, year_of_birth, race_concept_id
PROCEDURE_OCCURRENCE	procedure_occurrence_id, person_id, procedure_concept_id, procedure_date
VISIT_OCCURRENCE	visit_occurrence_id, person_id, visit_concept_id, visit_start_date

OMOP at scale and pace: SDE Network case studies

'Bytes, Bench, Bedside' - genomics driver project:

- Automated extraction of data from host EPR systems (Epic).
- Automated the transformation of extracts to OMOP using `omop_es` (UCLH).
- Surfacing structured clinical data alongside genomic data for federated analysis
- Automated release of results via an airlock

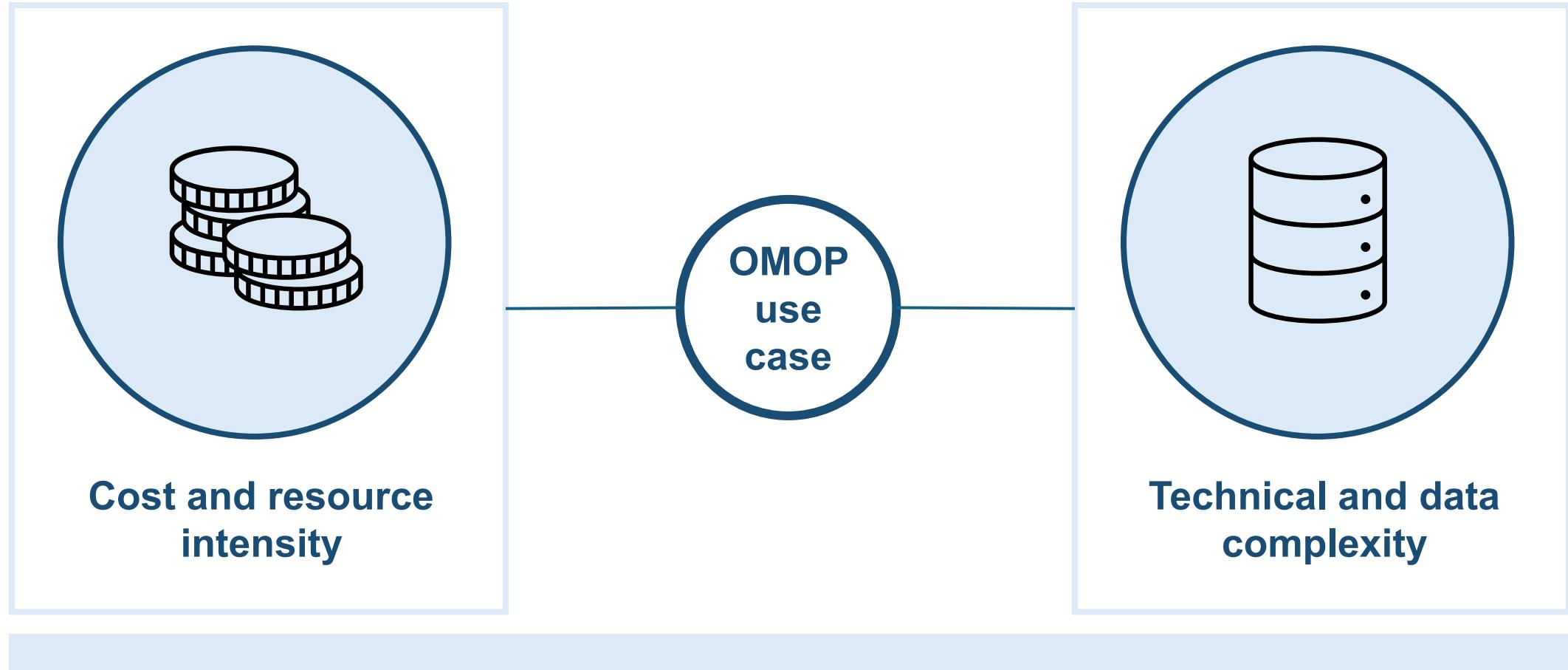


Cancer research - expand, simplify and accelerate research into causes and treatments:

- Mapping the data into a common model to expand, simplify and accelerate research into causes and treatments
- Future links with other datasets in the SDE Network will enable use of analytic tools and AI to look at relationships between cancer and other conditions or lifestyle factors



OMOP at scale and pace: experience from England



OMOP at scale and pace: recommendations for Sweden



1



Prioritise high-value,
OMOP-enabled use
case(s)

- Select use cases that are highly demanded by researchers and sustainable for scaling: maximum standardisation and reusability benefits

2



Coordinate
international,
national and regional
collaboration

- Blend governance with local expertise through a national convening mechanism
- '**Specialism not duplication**': data models, mapping and provenance documentation all accessible and collaborative

3



Embed OMOP into a
broader health data
strategy

- **Research:** Position OMOP implementation alongside wider health data access initiatives, including research infrastructure (e.g. TREs) and public engagement
- **Direct care:** Consider OMOP's role alongside national strategies for EHR uptake and maturity

Min nya blogg!



'Take a Chance'...on Health Data: UK-Sweden's New Research MoU

Jake Marshall AdvFEDIP

November 4, 2025

Last month, the UK's Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) and Sweden's Ministry of Education (*Utbildningsdepartementet*) signed a new [research Memorandum of Understanding \(MoU\)](#). This marks a new chapter in UK-Sweden bilateral relations, with a unique opportunity to now deepen collaboration on the secondary use of health data for commercial research. This blog explores the current strategic context on health data access across both countries, comparative strengths and valuable learning areas to ensure the MoU's success.

