# NHS Number
# Input and Display

## Quick Implementation Guide

**Edition 1**
**22nd April 2010**

# Contents

**This document was prepared for NHS Connecting for Health which ceased to exist on 31 March 2013. It may contain references to organisations, projects and other initiatives which also no longer exist. If you have any questions relating to any such references, or to any other aspect of the content, please contact cuistakeholder.mailbox@hscic.gov.uk**

## Introduction

The NHS Number is a national unique patient identifier that makes it possible to share patient information across the whole of the NHS safely, efficiently and accurately. It will be read from screen displays and correlated with information in different media, for example, wristbands (as described in *Standardising wristbands improves patient safety*[1]). It is a key component of services such as the NHS Care Record, Choose and Book and the Electronic Prescription Service. The NHS Number is described further in *NHS Number*[2].

**Important**

Although it contains all of the guidance points, this document omits supporting information and is therefore not intended as a substitute for the full NHS CUI document *Patient Identification Number Input and Display*[3]. Refer to that document for the definitive statement of the design guidance in this area.

The visual representations used to display the guidance are illustrative only. Stylistic choices (for example, display font used), unless otherwise specified, are not part of the guidance and are therefore not mandatory requirements.

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[1] NPSA Safer Practice Notice: Standardising wristbands improves patient safety
http://www.npsa.nhs.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?alId=5346

[2] NHS Connecting for Health: NHS Number
http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/systemsandservices/nhsnumber

[3] Patient Identification Number Input and Display – User Interface Design Guidance (v4.0.0.0)

# NHS Number Display

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| NHS Number | 123 456 7890 | NUM-0001<br><br>Display the NHS Number in full, on a single line, without truncation or splitting it over multiple lines<br><br>Mandatory |
| NHS Number | 123 456 7890<br>↑ ↑<br>spaces | NUM-0002<br><br>Display the NHS Number as three groups of three, three and four digits respectively, with a single space between groups<br><br>Mandatory |
| NHS Number | 123 456 7890 | NUM-0003<br><br>Support the copying of NHS Numbers by the user as part of the 'Copy and Paste' task<br><br>*Recommended* |

**Important**

This document uses the label 'NHS Number' only as an example. It does not represent guidance on label wording or positioning.

# NHS Number Input

NHS Number

NUM-0010

## Provide a single text input box for NHS Number entry

*Recommended*

NUM-0011

## Permit only one NHS Number to be entered in an NHS Number input box

Mandatory

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NHS Number    123 456 7890

NUM-0012

## Set the length of the NHS Number input box such that the NHS Number is visible in full
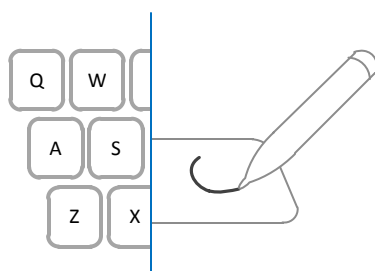
*Recommended*

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NHS Number    123 456 7890

NUM-0013

## Set the height of the NHS Number input box to the largest character height in the currently active display font, taking the user's settings into account
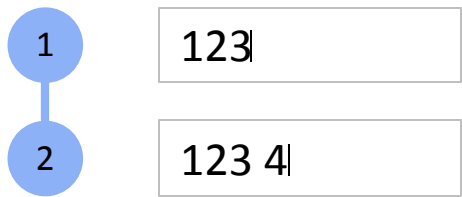
*Recommended*

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NUM-0014

## Permit NHS Number input via all the mechanisms supported on a platform such as, but not limited to, typing on a keyboard, copy and paste and handwriting with a stylus
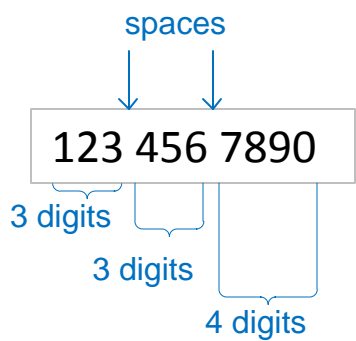
*Recommended*

# NHS Number Input

**1** **2** `123|`

`123 4|`

**NUM-0015**

During input, reformat the numbers entered as per the NHS Number display format, namely three numbers, space, the next three numbers, space, the last four numbers

*Recommended*

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spaces

`123 456 7890`

3 digits

3 digits

4 digits

**NUM-0016**

Ensure that the NHS Number only consists of 10 digits and two spaces as described in guidance point NUM-0015

Mandatory

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| | |
|---|---|
| . | Full stop |
| , | Comma |
| : | Colon |
| - | Hyphen |
| – — | Dashes |
| / | Forward slash |
| \ | Back slash |

**NUM-0017**

During input, permit only the single space character to act as a separator within the NHS Number, discarding all other non-numeric user input, including but not limited to these

Mandatory

**NUM-0018**

Do not permit input of old format and temporary NHS Numbers

Mandatory

# NHS Number Input

## Hints, Prompts and Tooltips

The input control may provide a hint, prompt or tooltip. Hints are instructional text placed outside but adjacent to the text input box. Prompts are commonly known as watermarks and comprise instructional text placed within the text input box. Tooltips are instructional text that appear when the mouse pointer is placed over the text input box.

The wording of hints and prompts is left to the designers of NHS clinical applications. Examples of hints, prompts, and tooltips are shown below.

NHS Number [            ]  e.g. 123 456 7890

Example of a Hint

NHS Number [ e.g. 123 456 7890 ]

Example of a Prompt

NHS Number [            ]

Enter the NHS Number e.g. 123 456 7890. This is a ten-digit number used to identify a person uniquely within the NHS in England and Wales

Example of a Tooltip