**Task 3 – Justification and Data protection**

Classes benefit me to build classes of objects and then use self-function to create instances of classes within those classes of objects. This included such as a patient class in my code. This helps organise my code in the most beneficial way. Classes aid me as it is a good approach as it will tidy up the code by condensing data and the functions in a single object. This means that it can be straightforwardly be followed and understood and follow what each line of the code implies.

Another approach was lists. Storing objects in a Python list allowed me to build new rows in a CSV file, and then add them to an array list as the object of the chosen class. Lists help me store key parts such as the conditions of the patient, which included smoker, asthmatic, hypertension, etc.

We were held Information about the patients’ health and care. For our objective, we were tasked to help the hospital to automate the selection and create a ranking in terms of priority that patients should be referred to a dietitian. “This helps the NHS to improve their individual care, speed up diagnosis, plan their local services and research new treatments.” *(NHS,2019)*

One of the risks that could be faced for data protection of the patients in the task is that NHS Digital has a legal responsibility to collect data about the patient’s information when we send it back to them. As stated, “legal frameworks covering how patient data must be looked after and processed are the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018, which brought the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) into law, and the Common Law Duty of Confidentiality (CLDC).” *(NHS, 2019)*

The NHS cannot analyse all information on its own, so they requested safely and securely to share some of the information with us to complete it. Information about the patient’s name, date of birth, height etc was given to us under General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2018 to formally protect information. “This means that your health and care data will carry on being handled securely and in line with the regulations.” (*NHS,2019*)

This is a risk that can cause problems since this must be kept confidential about the patient’s information and shouldn’t be spread out to the public. Furthermore, risks of losing health records or someone hacking can comprise the data. It can also be a risk to patients and loss of confidence in the system to staff and patients. Regular backups of files will be conducted to keep information safe and prevent data breaching.

**References:**

NHS (2019) *General Data Protection Regulation.* Available from: <https://digital.nhs.uk/about-nhs-digital/our-work/keeping-patient-data-safe/gdpr> [Accessed 16th April 2021]

NHS (2019) *Protecting Patient data.* Available from: <https://digital.nhs.uk/services/national-data-opt-out/understanding-the-national-data-opt-out/protecting-patient-data> [Accessed 16th April 2021]