**DATA SHARING – NHS DIGITAL**

**Individual GP level data**

**What personal data is being collected?**

NHS Digital will collect data at the level of the individual patient (that is: record level data).

NHS Digital will collect personal data in the form of patients' NHS Numbers.

The NHS Number is a unique number used to identify patients and match them to their health records. It is an identifiable, personal data item.

No other personal data items, such as Name, Address, Postcode or Date of Birth, will be collected. Similarly, no sensitive data items, such as Ethnicity, Sexual Orientation or Physical or Mental Health Conditions, will be collected.

NHS Digital will also collect other data to facilitate this data collection. This will comprise of the individual GP assigned to each patient and whether or not each patient meets the criteria for each of the given metrics. No other data will be collected.

**How is this personal data being used?**

The collection of patients' NHS Numbers is required for two reasons:

Firstly, to determine the link between individual GPs and the patients they are responsible for within their general practice. The purpose of this data collection is to provide GPs and general practices with clinical data at the level of the individual GP. NHS Digital and the third party IT system suppliers are currently unable to do this without collecting personal data in the form of NHS Numbers.

Secondly, to link the general practice data to hospital data for one of the metrics included in this data collection. This metric involves determining the number of patients who have had an emergency admission to hospital for one, or multiple, specific condition(s), broken down by each individual GP at a general practice.

Patients' NHS Numbers will only be used by NHS Digital for the two reasons stated above. **No other organisation will have access to these personal data.**

Following the collection of this data, NHS Digital will perform the necessary validation, linkage and analysis of this data. **Once these steps are performed and the information is reported back to GPs and general practices, the personal data held by NHS Digital will be deleted.**

**What should individuals do if they wish to opt-out of this data collection?**

Individuals who wish to opt-out of this data collection should inform reception. This is an objection that prevents an individual's personal confidential information from being shared outside of their general practice except when it is being used for the purposes of direct care, or in particular circumstances required by law, such as a public health emergency like an outbreak of a pandemic disease.