

Digitising Social Care

Where we are now and how FHIR can help

1st October 2025

Session topics



- Digitising Social Care
- DSCR Assured Solution program
- GP Connect
- Benefits
- How FHIR can help
- Q&A

Digitising Social Care



- Digital adoption in social care started c.10 years ago
- Fragmented, available to a few
- Mostly scheduling solutions
- Gradually started to see growth of care planning solutions
- CASPA formed in 2019, with the aim of bringing cohesion to the fragmentation, but also recognising the need for standards amongst IT suppliers
- Early engagement with INTEROPEN hackathons

Digitising social care



- Covid amplified the case for better cohesion between suppliers and made the case for data sharing between health and care
- Urgency to share data
- c.30% of the market share was owned by founding members of CASPA and they worked with NHS Digital to aggregate social care covid information which was shared daily with NHS and included in the daily sit rep meeting held by 'Gold command' at the beginning of the pandemic
- Discussions began in April, by July we were sharing data

Covid data collection



Data item	Description	Can Your system provide this?	Issues/concerns/difference with definition
Partial_Postcode	Geographic location by first 4 digits of postcode		
CQC_Inspection_Category	CQC identifier for residential or domiciliary care provider		
CQC_Location_ID	CQC identifier for geographic location of the social care provision		
CQC_Provider_ID	CQC identifier for the organisation providing the social care		
Location_ODS_Code	NHS Organisation Data Service code		
Date_Collected	Date of collection		
CG_Clear	Count of staff at this location observed to be 'COVID19 - no symptoms present'		
CG_Suspected	Count of staff at this location observed to be 'COVID19 - symptoms present'		
CG_Confirmed	Count of staff at this location confirmed to be 'COVID19 - confirmed case'. Officially diagnosed having had the results from an antigen test only.		
CG_Rota	Count of staff at this location on a scheduled work rota for the previous 24 hours		
CG_Left_Care	Count of staff at this location who did not attend for scheduled work in the previous 24 hours for any reason		
CR_Clear	Count of residents/ service users at this location observed to be 'COVID19 - no symptoms present'		
CR_Suspected	Count of residents/ service users at this location observed to be 'COVID19 - symptoms present'		
CR_Confirmed	Count of residents/ service users at this location confirmed to be 'COVID19 - confirmed case'		
CR_Total	Count of all residents/ service users registered at this location		
CR_Left_Care	Count of residents/ service users who have left this location in the previous 24 hours e.g. transferred to other health or care setting, deceased or stopped receiving care services		

Covid data collection



Software Providers Association

Recipient Name>
<Recipient Address>

15 July 2020

Dear <Recipient Name>.

I am writing to you on behalf of NHS Digital about the Data Provision Notice (DPN) been issued to enable the collection of adult social care data by NHS Digital from your management IT system.

NHS Digital has been directed by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to collect adult social care information, relevant to Covid-19, under the Covid-19 Public Health Directions 2020. Only Covid-19 related data will be collected and will include the Care status and key demographics such as age and gender but not include any personally identifiable information.

The new data collection has been requested to help the system understand the true impact of Covid-19 and the impact on outcomes, if any, of parameters such as the care provider and the age profile of care receivers. This information is essential to manage any future outbreaks and reduce the impact on social care.

To provide the legal gateway for this collection, a DPN has been issued to you under the Health and Social Care Act 2012. Details of the DPN and the data items to be collected are available on our website at:

<https://digital.nhs.uk/about-nhs-digital/corporate-information-and-documents/direct-data-provision-notice/data-provision-notice-dpns/adult-social-care-management-covid-19-status-collection>

I would be grateful if you could let your IT system supplier know, as indicated in the to you about this data collection, that you instruct them to forward the Covid-19 related only to us in accordance with the terms of this DPN to enable the flow of data to us extracting it directly from your system without any further action from you.

This information will not be used to reach judgements about the quality of care with organisation as part of a current or future Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection.

Yours sincerely

Jem Rashbass
Executive Director for Data and Analytics Services

Information and technology
for better health and care

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enquiries@nhsdigital.nhs.uk



Annex A – Draft e-mail

Dear [customer name]

You will be aware that to support you in your management of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, we have recently introduced the ability to record the Covid-19 status of your care receivers and staff.

We know many of our customers are finding this functionality useful and are using this information to complete the reporting on Covid-19 requested by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), and is likely to continue to support future stages of the pandemic.

As part of our terms and conditions with you, we have the ability to share the data we hold on your behalf for the benefits of health and social care planning and research and to help to highlight the issues you are facing to the wider system.

In view of this, we have been working with NHS Digital and other care management IT suppliers with a view to merging our Covid-19 status data from this new functionality together into one new anonymised data set.

The data collected by NHS Digital will not include directly identifiable personal data. NHS Digital will undertake further mitigating action, such as small number suppression, before the data is shared, to anonymise the data and prevent any indirect identification of individuals.

It's clear that the new data collection will help the system understand the trends and impact of Covid-19 over time and what impact different variables such as the type of care home and the age profile of care receivers can have.

The data can be used to help to guide us in being able to predict how future outbreaks will continue to impact care providers and adult social care delivery in the medium to long term.

To that end, from the 15 July we plan to share the combined data with NHS Digital, who will be working with colleagues across the system - initially on a restricted basis, to analyse the data with a focus on identifying trends.

This data will be held securely by NHS Digital. This information will not be used to reach judgements about the quality of care within an organisation as part of a current or future CQC inspection.

In the future, the intention is to release this information to you and the wider sector in an accessible form, such as a information management tool, so that it can be used to help you and regional and national colleagues plan and deliver your services.

To enable this collection, the Data Provision Notice (DPN) DPN- Care Provider management system Covid-19 has been issued to you under S259 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 by NHS Digital, and details can be found in the attached letter.



Please let us know by return to this email that you instruct us to forward the data to NHS Digital in accordance with the terms of the DPN to enable the flow of data to them.

This initiative, and its ongoing role in complementing the daily Care Provider Covid-19 data collections, has the support of the Care Provider Alliance, Local Government Association, and the Care Quality Commission.

Covid data collection



- Data Provision Notice July 2020

*“NHS Digital has been directed by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to collect adult social care information, relevant to Covid-19, under the Covid-19 Public Health Directions 2020. Only Covid-19 related-data will be collected and will include the Covid-19 status and key demographics such as age and gender **but not include any person-identifiable information.***

The new data collection has been requested to help the system understand the trends and impact of Covid-19 and the impact on outcomes, if any, of parameters such as the type of care provider and the age profile of care receivers. This information is essential to help to manage any future outbreaks and reduce the impact on social care”.

Data sharing expansion



The covid data collection project did 2 things

- a) Highlighted that competing suppliers were willing to work together for a common cause
 - b) The art of the possible in terms of data sharing between health and care
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- CASPA began to work with NHS Digital to explore further data sharing opportunities
 - GP Connect, Summary Care Record and Meds proxy highlighted
 - 3 suppliers initially put themselves forward to go through assurance for GP Connect.
 - Live in 2020 (initially for clinical staff). Extended to defined social care roles in 2022

Data sharing expansion



- Widespread consultation with stakeholder to get agreement for sharing GP data
- Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) approval
- National Data Sharing Guardian
- British Medical Association
- Royal College of General Practitioners

DSCR Assured solution program



- Intended to give assurance on care planning software
- Core functionality and set standards for solutions
- 14 standards in total
- Cyber and business continuity also included
- Commitment to maintain standards to remain on the list
- GP Connect mandated

GP Connect



- First introduced in social care end of 2020
- Later mandated via the DSCR assured solution program
- To date there are 14 DSCR suppliers live with GP Connect 'read only' view
- Social care have access to the following parts of the GP patient record
 - Encounters
 - Medications
 - Allergies & adverse reactions
 - Immunisations

Benefits



- Reduces risk associated to medication management
- Time saving for both GPs and social care staff
- Care providers are better informed on health concerns of the people they support
- Improved outcomes for people receiving care
- Increased collaboration between suppliers and care providers
- Appetite for sharing other data

SCIP



Social Care Interoperability Platform:

The “plumbing” mechanism for moving care data

£1m build contract to DHSC for MVP delivery 31/3/2026

Focus on direct care, starts with:

- access care info for assessment & planning
- integrate GP records
- facilitate transitions to & from hospitals, incl. ambulances
- share records between care providers

Establishes foundation for future interoperability

Link to SCIP tender: [Digital Outcomes Opportunities | Crown Commercial Service](#)

How FHIR can help



- Already in use by some social care suppliers
- FHIR provides a common language for sharing information with other systems
- It is well understood in health and more social care suppliers have used some FHIR resources in their systems
- Greater interoperability both within the UK and internationally
- Social care platform for interoperability

Thanks for listening



- Questions

