

Annex 2 - Information Sharing

The HSCIC has a statutory role to collect and process health and social care information which is set out in the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

The HSCIC's fair processing materials, available at <http://www.hscic.gov.uk/patientconf>, explain and provide further information on:

- what HSCIC collects - the types of information the HSCIC collects and what it's used for
- personal information choices - people's rights regarding care information
- information requests from organisations - how organisations can ask HSCIC to collect or provide access to care information
- assurance bodies and processes - how the information requests HSCIC receive are carefully looked at
- examples of benefits that have been realised through the provision of such information including case studies involving breast cancer and diabetes that are available at: <http://www.hscic.gov.uk/benefitscasestudies/extracts>

The HSCIC is absolutely committed to keeping all of the data it handles safe and secure and applies the same principle to any data that is released outside of the organisation.

Information is only ever shared with organisations that have gone through a strict application process, who can demonstrate they have a legitimate reason to access the data to use it for the benefit of health and care purposes, as per the new protections introduced as part of the Care Act 2014, and who have signed a legally binding agreement. So for example commercial companies cannot receive information for insurance or marketing purposes.

As part of the application process the Data Access Advisory Group, an independent group, hosted by the HSCIC, considers all applications for data that are identifiable or de-identified for limited access.

The HSCIC also regularly publishes a register of data releases at: <http://www.hscic.gov.uk/dataregister>, showing where data has been released, to which organisation and for which purposes.

If your patients do require any further information that is not already covered within our web pages we can be contacted by email at enquiries@hscic.gov.uk or by phone on 0300 303 5678.