

Date: February 2013

Dear All

The changes to Health and Social Care organisations brought about by The Health and Social Care Act 2012 take place on 1 April. The major re-organisation to health and social care bodies will result in significant changes to the current data flows.

To support you in your transition arrangements we have developed a manual which describes the practical steps you need to take to ensure that your information flows for purposes other than direct care are handled safely, securely and lawfully. The companion document is a spreadsheet listing the data flows we have identified, with feedback from the local systems.

This is the first draft of the manual. We have tried to ensure that it includes guidance on the majority of the existing local flows to national bodies as well as common local flows between health and social care organisations. It is not intended to provide guidance on all of your local data flows although the principles outlined in the manual may still apply to these flows. The spreadsheet includes the set of data flows for which we have the full details. We have some incomplete details about other flows and we will continue to gather intelligence on these and publish them in the next iteration of the spreadsheet.

We were conscious of the need for this information to be circulated as soon as possible and so we accept that there may still be some flows which require further clarification. We apologise for this in advance but we have implemented a feedback mechanism to capture any input and to source an answer for any questions that you may have. Please send comments or queries to enquiries@ic.nhs.uk with the subject 'Data Flows Manual'. We will issue a further version of the manual before 1 April based on your feedback.

Please note that this manual has been developed with the assistance of Public Health England. Where you have specific queries or concerns about public health, please address them to Jurgen.Schmidt@dh.gsi.gov.uk.

We trust this manual will be of assistance and welcome any feedback you may have.

Yours sincerely

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