



# Control of patient information (COPI) Notices – Expiration on 30 June 2022

4 May 2022

## COPI Notices – Extended to 30 June 2022

The Control of Patient Information (COPI) notices that were issued by the Department of Health and Social Care required confidential patient information to be shared to respond to the outbreak of COVID-19 and have provided organisations with the confidence they need to do this.

We have assessed whether the current COPI notices should be extended beyond the current 31 March 2022 deadline to take into account the current COVID-19 response, including the Omicron variant as a variant of concern.

Ministers have decided that the COPI notices should be extended with a new deadline of **30 June 2022**.

The ending of the COPI notices does not mean that confidential patient information can no longer be processed, simply that the *requirement* to do so will end. Organisations and programmes that intend to continue processing confidential patient information will need to ensure that they have identified the correct legal basis for doing so after the COPI notices end. This may still be under the COPI Regulations - which allow for confidential patient information to be processed for a range of purposes subject to an approvals process (with the exception of communicable disease purposes or threats to public health) - or some other legal basis, such as Directions or individual consent.

We have been working with stakeholders such as the Confidentiality Advisory Group to ensure that where processing of data needs to continue it can do so. Step by step guidance to support the system to transition away from reliance on the COPI Notices has also been developed and is attached here.

## Background

The COPI notices (issued under Regulation 3 of the Health Service (Control of Patient Information) Regulations 2002 (COPI Regulations)) have *required* the processing of confidential patient information for the response to the Covid-19 pandemic. This has ensured that information has been shared for programmes such as UK-Biobank's Covid-19 work, the RECOVERY-Supportive Care providing respiratory support to patients suspected or confirmed of having COVID-19, and the National COVID Chest Imaging Database. The ending of the COPI notices means that the **requirement** to process data ends; and we have been working with programmes to help them identify the correct legal basis for any continued processing.

**The COPI Notices which have been extended to a deadline of 30 June 2022 have been published and can be accessed on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).**

[<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-notification-of-data-controllers-to-share-information>]