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# Community Services Data Set – Community Pilot collection

# Document management

## Revision History

Version	Date	Summary of Changes
0.1	3/10/2023	First Draft
0.2	22/2/2024	Final draft following review
1.0	26/2/2024	Final

## Reviewers

This document must be reviewed by the following people:

Reviewer name	Title / Responsibility	Date	Version
[REDACTED]	Principal IG Specialist	22/2/2024	0.2

## Approved by

This document must be approved by the following people:

Name	Signature	Title	Date	Version
[REDACTED]		Deputy Director, Data Collection & Delivery	26/02/2024	0.2

## Glossary of Terms

Term / Abbreviation	What it stands for
National Data Platform (Foundry) – NHS England	Platform holding deidentified data for the purposes of analysis by NHS England, operated and controlled by NHS England.
National Data Platform (Foundry) – Arden and Gem CSU	An isolated instance of the National Data Platform operated and controlled by AGEM CSU on behalf of NHS England.

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## Purpose of document

This document sets out the requirements for the Community Services Data Set - Community Pilot collection and should be read alongside the:

- [Community Services Data Set Directions 2020](#)
- [Community Services Data Set Amendment Directions 2024](#)
- [Community Services Data Set – Pilot Community Collection Data Set Specification](#)

## Introduction / Purpose of data collection

Shifting more care out of hospital and into the community is one of the improvements outlined in the [NHS Long Term Plan](#) and will help ensure we meet the changing health needs of the country over the coming decade.

Collecting data faster and having a view on activity during the pandemic was instrumental in our response to recovery. Taking learning from this we are seeking to provide more timely data to the system and further improve access to data and insights. Streamlining data collection methods to improve the flow of consistent timely data will support local, system and national decision making across the whole patient pathway. The NHS faces a number of challenges with regards to managing patient flow and recovering elective and community waiting lists. Timely data to support these pressures is crucial.

The primary goal is to implement an automated granular daily data collection, to support recovery and with this provide the NHS with a modern data architecture that enables timely, high-quality data to be used to support decision making.

The programme will address the reporting burden on providers by working with Integrated Care Boards (**ICBs**) to replace existing local data flows and rationalising the national aggregate data collections owned by NHS England.

As a secondary uses data set, the Community Services Data Set (**CSDS collection**)<sup>1</sup> is a long standing data collection, it re-uses clinical and operational data for purposes other than direct patient care. It defines the data items, definitions and associated value sets extracted or derived from local information systems and sent to NHS England for analysis purposes. The purpose of this pilot is to develop and test the collection of a core subset of the CSDS data set<sup>2</sup>, most of which is already collected under the CSDS collection, into a granular daily data collection (**Community Pilot**), which is intended to lead to improvements in the CSDS collection and to the transformation of community data collections more widely.

The Community Pilot is a short term pilot which will continue until 31 May 2024. The intention is that the community programme will roll out a small pilot limited to early adopters to test the data collection form and method, the pilot will then be evaluated to inform the roll out to further providers. The further roll out is not in scope of this Community Pilot.

For the Community Pilot the manner of this short term collection will be limited to using the existing NHS England National Data Platform (Foundry) to test the form and methods of collection for the flows of data. Given that this a short term pilot that will cease in 31 May 2024, it is not intended that the data will flow into any other NHS England commissioned platform, for example the newly commissioned [NHS England Federated data platform](#).

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<sup>1</sup> [Community Services Data Set \(CSDS\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> As defined within the [DAPB1069: Community Services Data Set Information Standards Notice](#)

Lessons learned from the Community Pilot evaluation would be considered to inform any national collection, however national collection of data is out of scope of this Community Pilot, and this associated Requirements Specification.

The Community Pilot data collections closely aligns with the four overarching objectives of the Community Health Services Data Improvement Plan: to be timely, low burden, high-quality, and both relevant and representative.

The current data collected under community data flows will also be used (where possible) to fulfil metric requests and prevent additional reporting burden being placed on providers.

The data collected will help decision making for care co-ordination and identify where there may be blockages or improvement required in the healthcare system.

Community Pilot data collection will also support the following plans:

1. Feb 22 - Elective Care - [NHS England » NHS publishes electives recovery plan to boost capacity and give power to patients](#) and [Coronavirus » Delivery plan for tackling the COVID-19 backlog of elective care \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)
2. Jan 23 - Urgent and emergency care - [NHS England » Major plan to recover urgent and emergency care services](#) and [NHS England » Delivery plan for recovering urgent and emergency care services](#)
3. The NHS long-term <https://www.longtermplan.nhs.uk/>

The Community Pilot collection aims to deliver the principles and objectives described within the [Data Saves Lives - Data Strategy](#) to:

- Reduce data collection burden
- Provide an automated data collection system
- Follow data minimisation principles by requesting core data items
- Support the improvement of data quality
- Provide a simplified approach to collecting data

Existing flows are either not frequent or granular enough to support local planning and individual care co-ordination.

## Scope

The initial roll out will be a controlled pilot, tested with early adopters who have opted in to be part of the programme. Once the pilot has been completed the national roll out to further community providers will begin.

The scope of the collection covers all publicly funded community services in England. Providers could be from:

- foundation or non-foundation trusts
- acute trusts
- mental health trusts
- community healthcare trusts
- care trusts
- social enterprises
- integrated care organisations

- any qualified providers
- independent sector providers (including third sector)
- local authorities

## Source

The source of data is from all publicly funded community services providers in England.

## Category

The patient identifiable data that is requested supports the purpose of this collection. The initial collection will focus on community inpatients, community admissions, community discharges, community outpatients, community care data (a Master Patient Index, activity, contact), diagnosis, assessment and community referral data (service and Referral To Treatment). This dataset will also include aggregate data items.

The data set specification for the Community Services Data Set Pilot can be accessed here [Community Services Pilot Data Set Specification](#).

## Frequency

The Community Pilot collects data daily. The Community Pilot commenced in October 2023, collecting existing data Community Services Data Set data items and the data specification for this Community Pilot collection will commence in March 2024.

NHS England has issued a [Community Services Data Set Data Provision Notice](#) to the providers under s259 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 for the Community Services Data Set, which has been updated to reflect the information collection requirements for this pilot.

## Manner

Patient identifiable data will be collected via an API to an isolated instance of the National Data Platform operated by Arden and Gem Commissioning Support Unit (AGEM CSU), on behalf of NHS England. Data submitters will prepare CSV files from their data source and submit the files to the secure API, this process can be automated.

## Analysis

### Internal processing

The Community Pilot will make use of the existing NHS England National Data Platform - Foundry (NDP), a single data modelling and integration platform that provides users with reliable and timely data in order to make informed, effective decisions.

High level data flow:

- i) Providers extract identifiable activity data from their electronic record systems and/or their data warehouse.
- ii) An automated daily process (set up and managed by the provider as described under "Manner") will securely send the data via an API to an instance of the NDP operated and controlled by AGEM Commissioning Support Unit on behalf of NHS

- England (**the AGEM instance of the NDP**). The API will accept the correct file format or produce an error report requesting the provider to correct and resubmit.
- iii) Processing on the patient level data, including a pseudonymisation will take place in **the AGEM instance of the NDP**.
  - iv) Pseudonymised data will be sent from the **AGEM instance of the NDP** to another instance of the NDP operated and controlled by NHS England (**the National instance of the NDP**). The identifiable data is solely held on the AGEM instance of NDP and cannot be accessed on the national NDP.

NHS England will not link any data to other data it holds under this collection, it is testing collection and validation methods.

NHS England will analyse pseudonymised data held on the **National instance of the NDP** for the development of test analytics to support the development of future flows for:

- Local and national commissioners/decision makers with timely data about current services for planning, benchmarking, service improvement, response to crisis, and to comply with their statutory duties,

and provide:

- More timely access to data for commissioners at a national and local level, allowing more rapid insight and response.
- Commissioner access to additional data items beyond those included in national disseminations. This allows commissioners to respond to local need in a timely fashion with the ability to:
  - Monitor and audit health care provision and outcomes where such provision has been made;
  - Analyse health care provision to ensure effective pathways, use of resources and capacity;
  - Establish population health needs for strategic delivery planning;
  - Plan and carry out administration of the provision made for health and health-related care;
  - Use the data to support and accelerate analysing demographic and health profiles for pandemic emergency planning;
  - Support discharge, patient flow, care-coordination, demand and capacity.

## Consultation

Consultation has taken place to seek advice from IG and business leads within NHS England (including those who were formerly within NHS Digital) and AGEM CSU who have provided advice and support in ensuring that processing is secure and safe and adheres to standards. Subject matter experts were consulted to support IG processes. The interim Advisory Group for Data (formerly IGARD) were also consulted.

In order to provide advice, support and input for the programme NHS England have consulted and engaged with the following stakeholder groups since the establishment of the Community Pilot Community Services Data Set programme:

- NHS providers
- NHS Chief Information Officer network
- NHSE Directors of Performance Network
- Chief Executives of NHS Trusts and Foundation Trusts
- Chief Information Officers of NHS Trusts and Foundation Trusts
- ICB members

- Regional Business Intelligence, Data & Digital Networks
- Data submitters
- Data consumers
- Data subjects - through a public engagement session. This will support the transparency notice, web content and FAQs.

For the Community Pilot collection the programme has:

- Consulted with relevant policy leads to provide input into the specification
- Consulted with providers through existing networks
- Assessed provider capabilities through individual interviews during the programme's discovery phase
- Assessed digital maturity through a survey to all providers
- Sought feedback from providers on the proposed community specification

The outcome of this led to the decision to take a small cohort through a controlled pilot phase.

For the overall programme, NHS England has led the consultation and engagement and has advised as follows:

- Stakeholders are supportive of the Community Pilot.
- Stakeholders have advised that this will provide significant benefits across the system for both data sets and will significantly improve the timeliness of the provision of community data for commissioners.
- The data collected will support all stakeholders by providing a number of benchmarking opportunities to improve efficacy of patient care.
- The data will identify best practice to drive organisational and clinical improvement as well as gaps in service provision and to accelerate recovery of elective waiting lists and waiting times.
- The data will also support better commissioning of services to support patients' onward care with the most appropriate care.
- The data will reduce burden on providers by replacing manual submissions.

## Dissemination/Sharing

### Regular Dissemination/Sharing

#### National Data Platform View

NHS England may provide information via **the National instance of the NDP** to approved users as described below, by virtue of its discretionary powers in accordance with section 261 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

Subject to established NHS England governance procedures and approvals detailed below, data providers will be able to view their own data on the **National instance of the NDP**, where appropriate access governance controls have been met. They will be able to view their data in two formats:-

**Aggregate level** - Data may be viewed at provider level in aggregate form on the National Data Platform to enable individual providers to monitor performance and outcomes across their organisation/s.

**Pseudonymised level** - Data submitters - data quality and validation reports, through the viewer will be provided to providers, on the data they have submitted, highlighting the errors. This will allow them to review the data quality and resubmit the data.

Data submitters will be able to view pseudonymised data for their own patients which is available in the **National instance of the NDP**.

The viewer permits online viewing only, there is no functionality for users to extract information from the system in the viewer.

### **Data Access Request Service (DARS)**

In this case no data will be shared via the Data Access Request Service (**DARS**)..

## **Publication**

As this is a pilot collection no data will be published.

## **Change control process**

Changes to this Specification will be managed by NHS England in conjunction with the DHSC to ensure such changes are aligned with the Community Services Data Set Directions 2020.