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Andy Williams
Chief Executive
NHS Digital
1 Trevelyan Square,
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Dear Andy,

**Novation of Information and Technology Contracts from DH to NHS Digital:
“Electronic Prescription Service, Health and Social Care Network, N3, NHS
Choices, NHS e-Referral Service, Secondary Uses Service (SUS), Spine
(Named Programmes) Directions 2016”**

I am writing to provide a Direction to NHS Digital, formerly known as the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) and hereafter referred to as NHS Digital, to establish and operate informatics systems for the collection or analysis of information, and to exercise such systems delivery functions, in respect of the programmes specified and described in the attached Annex.

This Direction is given in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 254(1) and (6), 274(2), 304(9) and (10) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012¹ (“the Act”), and Regulation 32 of the National Institute for Health and Social Care Excellence (Constitution and Functions) and the Health and Social Care Information Centre (Functions) Regulations 2013² (“the Regulations”).

In accordance with section 254(2)(a) of the Act, the Secretary of State considers that it is in the interests of the health service in England for this Direction to be given.

This Direction is to be known as Electronic Prescription Service, Health and Social Care Network, NHS Choices, N3, NHS e-Referral Service, Secondary Uses Service

¹ 2012 c.7

² S.I. 2013/259

(SUS), Spine 2 (Named Programmes) Directions 2016, and comes into force on 16 January 2017.

The Secretary of State and NHS Digital have agreed to novate specified information and technology contracts established under the previous DH informatics portfolio to NHS Digital with effect from 1st December 2016.

In accordance with section 260(1), (2)(d) and section 261(1)(2)(e) of the Act, NHS Digital is directed not to publish information collected or analysed by complying with this Direction, but may disseminate (other than by way of publication) the information to any persons it considers appropriate.

In exercising the functions under this Direction, NHS Digital must have regard to such priorities, policies, advice or guidance of the Secretary of State as the Secretary of State may notify in writing to NHS Digital.

This Direction supplements the following Directions:

- The Health and Social Care Information Centre Spine Services (no. 2) Directions 2014;
- The Health and Social Care Information Centre (Systems Delivery Functions for NHS Choices and Additional Systems Delivery Functions for NHS Choices) Directions 2013.

In accordance with regulation 32(2)(a) of the Regulations, the Secretary of State will make payments to NHS Digital for things done in connection with the exercise of the systems delivery functions referred to above.

In accordance with s254(5) of the Act, NHS Digital has been consulted before this Direction has been given.

Yours sincerely,



TIM DONOHOE
CHIEF TECHNOLOGY ADVISOR
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Annex: Named Programmes

Name	Short Description
Electronic Prescription Service	<p>The Electronic Prescription Service (EPS) sends electronic prescriptions from GP surgeries direct to pharmacies.</p> <p>The EPS enables prescribers - such as GPs and practice nurses - to send prescriptions electronically to a dispenser (such as a pharmacy) of the patient's choice.</p>
Health and Social Care Network	<p>The Health and Social Care Network (HSCN) will provide a reliable, efficient and flexible way for health and care organisations to access and exchange electronic information.</p> <p>The Health and Social Network is currently in procurement, and will, following completion of transition, replace the N3 service.</p> <p>The HSCN replaces the current centrally managed N3 national private network. Instead, HSCN offers a standards-based network that will enable multiple suppliers to provide interoperable network services to health and social care organisations.</p>
N3	<p>N3 is a Wide Area IP Network (WAN), connecting many different sites across the NHS within England & Scotland. It also connects to other networks via Gateways, notably to the Internet via the Internet Gateway</p> <p>N3 is due to be replaced by the HSCN service.</p>
NHS Choices	<p>NHS Choices provides comprehensive health information with thousands of articles, videos and tools to help the public make the best choices for their health and lifestyle.</p> <p>NHS Choices website is available at http://www.nhs.uk/pages/home.aspx</p>
NHS e-Referral Service	<p>The NHS e-Referral Service is the national system that provides patients with a choice of hospitals and clinics when booking appointments.</p>
Secondary Uses Service (SUS)	<p>The service allows Commissioners and Providers to use data for secondary uses such as planning, commissioning and calculating payments.</p>

	The SUS service is due to be replaced 2017/18.
Spine 2	<p>The Spine supports the IT infrastructure for health and social care in England, joining together over 23,000 healthcare IT systems in 20,500 organisations.</p> <p>Spine portal : Spine can be accessed through the portal. (N3 Smartcard users)</p> <p>Spine technical information: Warranted Environment Specification (WES)</p> <p>Open Access Test Environment for Spine 2</p> <p>National service desk weblog tool</p> <p>A technical or support service</p>
NHS Mail 2 and NHS Mail Extension	NHSmail is the national secure email service approved for sharing sensitive information.