



Sarah Wilkinson
Chief Executive
NHS Digital
1 Trevelyan Square,
Boar Lane
Leeds
LS1 6AE

19 October 2017

Dear Sarah,

DIRECTION ON OUT OF AREA PLACEMENTS DATA COLLECTION

I am writing to provide a Direction to NHS Digital to continue to operate an informatics support service for the collection of information about out of area placements (OAPs) for adults in acute mental health inpatient services from November 2017 to March 2018.

The Government has set a national ambition to eliminate inappropriate OAPs for adult acute inpatients by 2020/21.

An inappropriate “out of area placement” is defined as a situation in which a person with assessed acute mental health needs, who requires adult mental health acute inpatient care, is admitted to a unit that does not form part of the usual local network of services (an inpatient unit that does not usually admit people living in the catchment area of the persons local community mental health service), and where the person cannot be visited regularly by their care co-ordinator.

This Direction is given in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 254(1) and (6), 274(2) and 304(9), (10) and (12) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012¹ 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.

This Direction is to be known as the Collection of OAPs for Adults in Acute Mental Health Inpatient Services Direction (Extension).

It extends the Direction that was originally given on 22 September 2016 for a period of twelve months from 10 October 2016. The extension comes into force on 19 October 2017. Under section 254 of the 2012 Act, NHS Digital is required to:

- Collect data that includes administrative information, information about the reasons for admission, and diagnostic information about adults who receive acute inpatient care in mental health services. This data will be aggregated at provider and CCG level and all data, in accordance with NHS Digital’s mandatory standards or Anonymisation Standard for Publishing Health and Social Care Data, will be anonymised when published on NHS Digital’s website.

¹ 2012 c.7

² S.I. 2013/259

The Department has agreed for this information to continue to be published on a monthly basis for six months beyond the twelve months originally planned.

- Share aggregate data at CCG provider level collected under this direction, in accordance with NHS Digital's mandatory standards or Anonymisation Standard for Publishing Health and Social Care Data, with the Department of Health, NHS England, NHS Improvement, NHS organisations and Independent Sector Providers responsible for commissioning and providing acute mental health services in England.

NHS Digital must take steps to ensure that no data collected under these directions are shared or published by any means which may lead to the identification of an individual.

Please accept this letter as a direction given under subsection (1) of section 254 of the 2012 Act to the Health and Social Care Information Centre to exercise the functions in relation to the informatics support service for the collection of information about OAPs for adults in acute inpatient care for mental health services.

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

Yours sincerely



Antonia Williams

Director of Mental Health Policy, Dementia and Disability
Department of Health