

# GPSoC data collection: eMED3 (fit note) information collection from general practice clinical systems

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**MESSAGE FOR ALL GENERAL PRACTICES IN ENGLAND**

**Wednesday 16 December 2015**

## Data collection information

The Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) will soon begin to collect anonymous data from your general practice clinical system on patients who have been issued with a fit note.

This information is required by the HSCIC under section 259(1) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012. In line with section 259(5) of the Act, all general practices in England must comply with the requirement and provide information to the HSCIC in the form, manner and period specified in this Data Provision Notice. This Notice is issued in accordance with the procedure published as part of the HSCIC duty under Section 259(8).

The collection will commence when your principal clinical system supplier is ready to implement the extract functionality, and it has been assured and accepted by the HSCIC. This will not be before Wednesday 27 January 2016. Historical data backdating to 1 December 2014 will be collected in the first extract, subsequent extracts are on a weekly schedule, until the end of August 2018.

The data is being collected on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions to:

- undertake research analysis to inform policy relating to employment and sickness absence, including evaluation of the Fit for Work programme.
- help identify geographic level differences in return to work so that national and local providers can respond to provide appropriate services.

The data collected is anonymised data and, includes the type and duration of the fit note; recommendations for adjustments to enable a return to work; diagnostic codes; geographic area and gender.

The Department of Health has directed Type 1<sup>1</sup> patient objections to be respected so practices need to ensure that all Type 1 patient objections are recorded on their local system prior to the extracts taking place to ensure that patient objections are honoured.

The collection will be made using the services of the four primary care principal clinical system suppliers, under the General Practice Systems of Choice (GPSoc) framework contract. Suppliers have been instructed to ensure that the collection respects Type 1 patient objections logged within the principal clinical system. No data for such patients will be extracted.

The extracted data is securely processed by the HSCIC and will be published, at aggregated CCG level, on the HSCIC [iView portal](#) on a quarterly basis starting in April 2016.

The full notice, known as a [Data Provision Notice](#), is available online.

## Further information

- [Section 259 procedure, and register of issued Data Provision Notices](#)
- Further information regarding the purpose of the extract and what the Department for Work and Pensions will use the data for is available on [Department for Work and Pensions gov.uk webpages](#).

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<sup>1</sup> Type 1 objection: Patients can object to information about them leaving a general practice in identifiable form for purposes beyond their direct care, so confidential information about them will not be shared.

- [Fair processing and personal information choices](#) – for details in relation to the role of the data controller and patient objections to data sharing.
- [HSCIC GP Collections bulletins](#) for more general information on planned primary care data collections from GP practices.

## Sources of additional support

- Any queries about the purpose of the collection and how the collected data will be used should be directed to the [Department for Work and Pensions](#) via [health.work@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:health.work@dwp.gsi.gov.uk).
- If you have any queries in relation to the Data Provision Notice or the process of collecting the data, please contact the HSCIC contact centre via [enquiries@hscic.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@hscic.gov.uk) with 'eMED3 data collection' in the subject line, or telephone 0300 303 5678.

Please do not respond to this email. This mailbox is not monitored.

## List of web URLs

A full list of the URLs contained in the communication above:

- <https://iview.hscic.gov.uk/Home/DataAreas>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/data-provision-notices-section-259-health-social-care-act-2012>
- <http://www.gov.uk/dwp/fit-note-data>
- <http://www.hscic.gov.uk/yourinfo>
- <http://systems.hscic.gov.uk/gpcollections/bulletins>