

OXFORDSHIRE

Rationale

Risk stratification is a process that uses de-identified personal data from health care services to determine which people are at risk of experiencing certain outcomes, such as unplanned hospital admissions.

Data Processing activities for Risk Stratification

Risk stratification tools are used to analyse the overall health of a population using data which is anonymised in line with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) Anonymisation Code of Practice. The combined Secondary Use Service (SUS) data and GP data which contains an identifier (usually NHS number) is made available to clinicians with a legitimate relationship with their patients to enable them to identify which patients should be offered targeted preventative support to reduce those risks.

For Oxfordshire area residents we do not undertake nor at the moment commission any other third party to do Risk Stratification on its behalf.

Further information about risk stratification is available from:
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/tsd/ig/risk-stratification/>

Legal Basis

The use of identifiable data by ICBs and GPs for risk stratification has been approved by the Secretary of State, through the Confidentiality Advisory Group of the Health Research Authority and this approval has been extended to October 2018 which gives us a statutory legal basis under Section 251 of the NHS Act 2006 to process data for risk stratification purposes which sets aside the duty of confidentiality. We are committed to conducting risk stratification effectively, in ways that are consistent with the laws that protect your confidentiality.

Under UK GDPR/DPA 2018, for personal data we rely on Article (6.1.e) – it is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller. For special category data, we rely on Article (9.2.h) – it is necessary for the reasons of preventative medicine, medical diagnosis, the provision of health or social care or treatment.

Benefits

ICBs and GPs use risk stratification tools as part of their local strategies for supporting patients with long-term conditions and to help and prevent avoidable admissions. Typically this is because patients have a long term condition such as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease. NHS England encourages ICBs and GPs to use risk stratification tools as part of their local strategies for supporting patients with long-term conditions and to help and prevent avoidable admissions.

Knowledge of the risk profile of our population will help the ICB to commission appropriate preventative services and to promote quality improvement in collaboration with our GP practices.