

## **BERKSHIRE WEST**

### **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 and where relevant, members of a Multi Disciplinary Team (MDT) to enable them to identify which patients should be offered targeted preventative support to reduce those risks.

For Berkshire West area residents there are two Risk Stratification solutions:

Firstly BWCCG commissioned NHS South, Central and West Commissioning Support Unit (SCWCSU) to provide the risk stratification software solution on behalf of itself and its GP practices. This is known as "Integrated Population Analytics", or IPA.

The ICB will use pseudonymised versions of this information to understand the local population needs, whereas GPs will be able to identify (by NHS number) which of their patients are at risk in order to offer a preventative service to them. Where appropriate, members of the MDT will have access to the identifiable information for Patients that could be or are supported in an integrated approach to their care.

NHS South, Central and West Commissioning Support Unit extract and process primary care data on behalf of the ICB for Risk Stratification purposes.

This processing takes place under contract following the below steps:

- NHS Digital has a legal obligation to obtain data from providers of NHS care such as the local hospital or community hospital. This data is then sent to the SCWCSU DSCRO and amended so that only your NHS number could identify you. The data is then provided to SCWCSU for processing in the risk stratification software. There is a signed a Data Sharing Contract with NHS Digital for the use of this data, called Secondary Use Services (SUS) data.
- SCWCSU extract primary care data identifiable by your NHS Number for those patients that have not objected to Risk Stratification or where no Type 1 objection has been made by an individual. The data containing the same verified NHS numbers are then stored within a secure sever owned and managed by SCWCSU which is then processed through the risk stratification algorithms and the output made available in the IPA user interface.
- Within the landing stage, the risk stratification system automatically links and pseudonymises the identifiable data from GP's and NHS Digital. No identifiable data of any patient is seen by the ICB.

SCWCSU uses an established formula to analyse the data to produce a risk score for each patient. This information is available in pseudonymised form to SCWCSU DSCRO.

The risk scores are only made available to authorized users via a secure portal managed by SCWCSU. The risk score for individual patients is available to staff within the Patient's registered practice in identifiable form. The score or the outputs can be made available to staff within a MDT where Practices are working as a locality, federation or super practice and this access is agreed by the Caldicott Guardian for each Practice.

Further information about Integrated Population Analytics is available from:  
<https://www.scwcsu.nhs.uk/ipa>

There is commissioned a second risk stratification solution: Graphnet Health Ltd were commissioned to extract primary care data and link it Secondary Use Services (SUS) within the Graphnet Care Centric Solution for the purposes of

risk stratification. There is also signed a Data Sharing Contract with NHS Digital for this use of Secondary Use Services (SUS) data.

If you do not wish information about you to be included in our risk stratification programme, please contact your GP Practice. They can add a code to your records that will stop your information from being used for this purpose.

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

### **Legal Basis**

NHS England has gained approval from the Secretary of State, through the Confidentiality Advisory Group, for its application for the disclosure of commissioning data sets and GP data for risk stratification purposes to data processors working on behalf of GPs which provides a statutory legal basis under Section 251 of the NHS Act 2006 to process data for risk stratification purposes with GDPR Articles 6(1)(e) and 9(2)(h)

### **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 practice.