

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Rationale

Risk stratification is a process for identifying and supporting patients who are most likely to need hospital or other healthcare services in the future. Section 251 of the NHS Act 2006 provides a statutory legal basis to process data for risk stratification purposes.

Risk stratification 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.

Risk stratification tools used in the NHS help determine a person's risk of suffering a particular condition and enable us to focus on preventing ill health and not just the treatment of sickness.

Unidentifiable, anonymised information about patients is collected from a number of NHS organisations and then analysed to create a risk score. Data is securely managed throughout the whole process to ensure that identities are kept confidential. Further information on risk stratification is available from: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/tsd/ig/risk-stratification/>

Data Processing activities for Risk Stratification

Risk stratification tools are used by ICBs 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 their risk of long term illness.

For Buckinghamshire area residents we commission the following providers (data processors) to provide risk stratification: NHS South, Central and West Commissioning Support Unit (SCWCSU) and Graphnet Health Limited

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 service. This data is then sent to

our processors and amended so that only your NHS number could identify you. The data is then provided to our processors for processing in the risk stratification software. There is a signed Data Sharing Contract with NHS Digital for the use of this data, called Secondary Use Services (SUS) data.

- Our processors 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 environment owned and managed by SCWCSU which is then processed through the risk stratification algorithms and the output made available in the IPA user interface.
- The primary care data and SUS data are linked and pseudonymised. It is then processed through the risk stratification algorithms to produce a risk score for each patient. The output is made available to GP practices and Primary Care Networks. Aggregated, unidentifiable data is made available to the ICB. No identifiable data of any patient is seen by the ICB.

The risk scores are only made available to authorised users within the GP Practice where you are registered via either the practice clinical system or through a secure portal managed by our data processors.

This portal allows only the GPs to view the risk scores for the individual patients registered in their practice in identifiable form. The outputs can be made available if Practices are working as a locality, federation, Primary Care Network or super practice and they are involved in your care, and this access is agreed by the Caldicott Guardian for each Practice.

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.

Please be aware that this may limit the ability of healthcare professionals to identify if you have or are at risk of developing certain serious health conditions.

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 (CAG), 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. We are committed to conducting risk stratification effectively, in ways that are consistent with the laws that protect your confidentiality.

As regards compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), conditions relied upon for processing personal data are “Performance of a task in the public interest or the exercise of official authority” (article 6e) and special category data “Medical and Health diagnosis, treatment or management of health or social care systems and services” (article 9h).

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.