

DATA PROTECTION OFFICE NEWS

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DPO Newsletter 7

News

Advice on data sharing with NHS 111

The following advice was published by the BMA's GP Committee:

NHS 111 Data Sharing Agreements We have had queries from practices regarding NHS 111 asking practices to sign Data Sharing Agreements in order to gain full access to patient health records via GP connect. As you are aware under the 2019/20 GP contract, practices are obliged to make available one appointment per 3,000 patients per day for NHS 111 to book directly into practice appointments. This is provided that the functionality and governance exist. We have been informed that some practices have been sent DSAs by NHS 111 providers to enable direct booking. Our understanding is that a DSA is not necessary for the purposes of assigning an appointment only as it does not require access to the patient's medical record and NHS 111 appointment booking contract agreement is not an agreement for NHS 111 to access medical records.

Furthermore, DSA is not required when one independent data controller (i.e. NHS 111) is sharing personal data with another independent data controller (i.e. the GP practice). This also reflects usual practice in the health service when data are continuously shared between primary and secondary care for direct care purposes, such as referrals, without the requirement for a DSA. We have raised our concerns on a national level and once we have further clarity will share this with practices.

Oldham Shares for You

Having scrutinised the Oldham Shares For You DPIA (data sharing impact assessment) and Data Sharing Agreement, we have now given DPO approval to the agreement on behalf of the GP Practices in Oldham. The agreement is very robust and thorough, and we are satisfied with the Information Governance in place. The Data Sharing Agreements will now be sent out to the individual GP practices for the data controllers to sign.

Practice Engagement

I enjoyed attending the Oldham PM Forum on December 18th to introduce myself to those of you who I haven't already met and to give an update on data sharing initiatives in the Oldham area. I will be at the T&G forum on Tuesday 14th January.

If you feel your practice would benefit from an individual DPO visit, please do get in touch.

If you require any further information about any of the above, or any other data protection issues, please do not hesitate to contact me at westpenninelmcbtconnect.com, or mobile 07951 530 417.