

How we use **your data** in Cheshire and Merseyside

The Cheshire and Merseyside Secure Data Environment (SDE) is a digital platform that stores health and care data. It allows your health and care information to be analysed for research and planning. This leaflet explains why this is important and the options you have around how your data is used.

The Cheshire and Merseyside SDE will help us to research new treatments and therapies faster than ever before. It can also help with planning local health services. It can improve care for everyone. It can even help save lives.

The Cheshire and Merseyside SDE brings together information from several important areas of health and care within Cheshire and Merseyside, including:



GP practices



Social care



Community services



Hospital services



Mental health services



Ambulance services

The data includes:



Details of health conditions



Any medications you may be taking



Any allergies you may have



Recent test results



Vaccinations



Care or treatment plans



Details of any social care or carer support you may receive

You will have records on different electronic systems. GP practices, hospitals, ambulance services and care homes use individual systems to look after their service users. We have developed a secure way to bring this information together. This better supports health and social care workers looking after you.

Health and care data is already used in research. Secure Data Environments will standardise this process to make it more efficient and improve data security.

NHS Cheshire and Merseyside created the Cheshire and Merseyside SDE with the strongest possible levels of privacy and security. It:

- Uses no information that identifies you (removing your name, address and date of birth).
- Protects your information to ensure confidentiality.
- Uses the highest level of cyber security.
- Strictly reviews researchers and their reasons for using your information.
- Controls access to your de-identified information by preventing data leaving the Cheshire and Merseyside SDE.

You can decide how your data is shared

You can allow your data to be used for all, some or no research and planning purposes. Below are the different options available to you.

- **You are happy for your data to be used for care, research and planning.**

You do not need to do anything if you want your health and care information to support research and planning through the Cheshire and Merseyside SDE.

- **You don't want your data to be used for research and planning in Cheshire and Merseyside, but you're happy for it to be used nationally.**

If you do not want your data to be used for local research projects, you can use the **local data opt-out service** by calling **0151 351 8888** or emailing dataintoaction@cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk

You can find out what local research is being carried out at <https://dataintoaction.cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk/secure-data-environment>

- **You want to stop your GP practice sharing your data for research and planning, but you're happy for hospitals and other providers to do this.**

If you do not want personal, confidential data held by your GP practice to be used for purposes beyond your care, you can register a **'Type 1 opt-out'**. To do this you can download a Type 1 opt-out form and return it to your GP practice. This would not apply to hospitals and other healthcare providers that could still use your information for research and planning. You can find out more on NHS England's website: www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/about-the-nhs/opt-out-of-sharing-your-health-records

- **You don't want your data to be used for any research and planning.**

If you want to stop your data being used for research and planning purposes, you can use the **national data opt-out service**. This opt-out can be viewed or changed at any time through NHS England's website: www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters

- **You don't want your data to be shared for care, research and planning.**

If you do not want your data being shared at all, you can raise a **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) – Right to Object** with your GP practice. You have a right to object at any time, but please think carefully before doing this. This option would stop healthcare professionals viewing your records from other services. This could delay vital information being available if you need health or social care support – for example, during a visit to an Emergency Department. Your data would still be recorded by services as part of your direct care. Your GP practice has the right not to action your request should they feel it is not in your best interest.

You can find out more about the Cheshire and Merseyside SDE, including further information on how to opt out or opt back in to your data being used, by visiting: <https://dataintoaction.cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk/secure-data-environment>

Alternatively, you can:

Call us on 0151 351 8888

Email us at dataintoaction@cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk

Write to us at: The Information Governance Team,
NHS Cheshire and Merseyside, No 1 Lakeside, 920 Centre Park,
Warrington, WA1 1QY

If you would like to see this information in other languages or formats, please contact:

dataintoaction@cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk

The NHS has a Confidential Advisory Group that assesses applications to use health and care data for purposes other than direct care. For more information about NHS Cheshire and Merseyside's application, please visit www.hra.nhs.uk where you can find a register of approved applications and their supporting documentation.

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