

Maternity Services Data Set information governance and fair processing guidance

Controller's contact details

Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, Maidstone Hospital, Hermitage Lane, Maidstone, Kent, ME16 9QQ

Data Protection Officer's contact details

Data Protection Officer: Kevin Rowan, kevinrowan@nhs.net

Purpose and legal basis for processing

We collect information about you (your personal data) for the Maternity Services Data Set (MSDS), to help achieve better outcomes of care for mothers, babies and children. The data set collects information about the mother's demographics (e.g. postcode, date of birth, ethnic category), booking, diagnosis and admission details, as well as details about screenings and tests and labour/delivery. The data set also collects details about the baby's demographics (e.g. date and time of birth, sex) and relevant tests prior to discharge from maternity services.

Under GDPR, our lawful basis for processing is Article 6 (1) (c), which relates to processing necessary to comply with a legal obligation to which we are subject. Our lawful basis for processing special category data is GDPR Article 9 (2) (h) and Schedule 1, Part 1 (2) (2) (f) of the Data Protection Act 2018.

What we do with it

The data is securely sent to NHS Digital which is the central organisation that receives the same data from all NHS-funded maternity services across England. NHS Digital removes all identifying details and combines the data we send with the data sent by other care providers, forming the MSDS.

The data set is used to produce anonymised reports that only show summary numbers of, for instance, patients referred to different maternity services. It is impossible to identify any individual patient in the reports, but the reports do help us to improve the care we provide to you and other patients.

No information that could reveal your identity is used in national reports.

The benefits of the MSDS to you as a patient include:

- making sure maternity services are available to all patients and measuring the respective care delivered
- better care, through monitoring progress to allow future services to enable maternity care provided is mother and child-centric
- informing patients about the care offered at different hospitals
- more personalised and better organised care for patients through understanding what care is needed nationally, for example understanding how the antenatal care provided can affect outcomes for both mother and baby

The data held in the MSDS may also be linked to data held by NHS Digital from various other data sets and collections, including (but not limited to) the [Community Services Data Set \(CSDS\)](#) and [Mental Health Services Data Set \(MHSDS\)](#). The MSDS data may also be linked to external data sources such as Office for National Statistics (ONS) data and data from [the National Neonatal Data Set](#). More information about the data sets and collections that NHS Digital hold and that may be used for linkage can be found on [the NHS Digital website](#). Linkage is carried out in order to investigate the relationship between care in maternity services and subsequent activity, such as health visiting and school nursing activity, as well as referrals to neonatal units, mental health services and other services.

For more information about how NHS Digital uses your personal data including their lawful basis for processing, how long they hold it for and your rights, please see their website: <https://digital.nhs.uk/about-nhs-digital/our-work/keeping-patient-data-safe/gdpr/gdpr-register>

To manage your choice about how your confidential patient information is used beyond your own individual care, please visit the following website <https://www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters/>

Alternatively, you can call 0300 303 5678.

More information about the Maternity Services Dataset (MSDS) can be found at the following website: <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/data-collections-and-data-sets/data-sets/maternity-services-data-set>

How long we keep it

Information is held for specified periods of time as set out in the [Records Management Code of Practice for Health and Social Care 2016](#)

What are your rights?

You have a right to object to the processing (use) of your personal data in some circumstances. There are legitimate reasons why we may refuse your objection, which depend on why we are processing it. This will not affect your treatment in any way.

You also have the right to have inaccurate personal data rectified and to request the restriction or suppression of your personal data in specific circumstances, for example if you feel that the data held is inaccurate.

Please contact us via our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS):

There is a PALS office at both Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells Hospitals, open to the public Mon- Fri 9.00am to 5.00pm.

PALS can also be contacted via email: mtw-tr.paloffice@nhs.net

You can also make a subject access request for information that we hold about you.

Contact our Subject Access Request team on mtw-trsar@nhs.net

Your right to complain

If you wish to raise a complaint concerning our handling of your personal data, please visit our Complaints pages [Making a Complaint](#)

You also have a right to raise a concern with the [Information Commissioner's Office](#) at any time. Their contact details are: ICO, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.