

NHS Community Pharmacy Services



Use of data

In order to provide NHS services provided directly from a Community Pharmacy, this pharmacy will collect and retain data securely on individuals accessing the services.

Sharing data

The pharmacy is required to advise NHS National Services Scotland (NSS) when a consultation has been undertaken for any Community Pharmacy service provided on behalf of an NHS Health Board, if referral has been made to another healthcare provider and to provide details of any items supplied for a NHS Community Pharmacy supported service. This data is sent electronically or by paper, stored securely on a digital platform and enables NSS to calculate payment to the pharmacy for the service they have provided. NSS may also use this information to assure accurate payments and for the prevention and detection of fraud and share it with other bodies responsible for auditing or administering public funds.

Through the secure digital platform, NSS shares data with Public Health Scotland (PHS) to produce statistics which are used to assist in the provision and improvement of NHS services and improve the health of the people of Scotland. More details about these organisations is given below.

NHS National Services Scotland (NSS)

NSS is a public organisation created in Scotland under Section 10 of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978. Practitioner Services is the business unit within NSS that provides services on behalf of Health Boards to support General Practitioners, Community Pharmacies and Dispensing Contractors, Dentists and Opticians delivering primary care across Scotland.

Public Health Scotland (PHS)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) is a national public health body established by Scottish Government and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA). As a partnership between national and local government, PHS enable and support local and national bodies to work together to improve health and wellbeing in communities.

Under EU and UK data protection law, PHS and NSS are joint Controllers and both organisations have equal access and responsibility to where the information is held securely to allow the delivery of their respective statutory obligations.

Where to get more information

If you want more information about this and other uses of data, you can:

- Read the NSS Practitioner Services Data Protection Notice available at <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/publications/practitioner-services-data-protection-notice/>
- Read Public Health Scotland's Data Protection Notice available at <https://www.publichealthscotland.scot/our-privacy-notice/>
- Visit the NHS Inform website – How the NHS handles your personal health information at <https://www.nhsinform.scot/care-support-and-rights/health-rights/confidentiality-and-data-protection/how-the-nhs-handles-your-personal-health-information>
- Contact your local health board – every health board has an NHS Data Protection Officer. Contact details are at - <https://www.nhsinform.scot/care-support-and-rights/health-rights/confidentiality-and-data-protection/how-the-nhs-handles-your-personal-health-information#data>