

Population health management and Risk Stratification carried out by the Clinical Commissioning Group Herts Valleys CCG (HVCCG)

What this means for you: informing patients – Practice obligations

The Practice is required under data protection law to ensure that patients are aware of how their data is used. This Programme involves new processing of data and Practices are advised to update their Privacy Notice materials and use whatever other means you have to inform patients about it e.g. through patient participation groups, newsletters etc.

The Programme offers patients the opportunity to opt-out of their data being included in the Programme, even though the analysis is done using de-identified data. It is important that patients are made aware of this too.

HVCCG extracts medical information about you for population health management and risk stratification purposes, the information we pass to them via our computer systems cannot identify you to them. This information only refers to you by way of a code that only your practice can identify (it is pseudo-anonymised). This therefore protects you from anyone who may have access to this information at the Clinical Commissioning Group from ever identifying you as a result of seeing the medical information and we will never give them the information that would enable them to do this.

There are good reasons why the Clinical Commissioning Group may require this pseudo-anonymised information, these are as follows:

- To assist in analysing current health services and proposals for developing future services.
- To develop risk stratification models to help GP's to identify and support patients with long term conditions and to help to prevent un-planned hospital admissions or reduce the risk of certain diseases developing, such as diabetes.
- Using risk stratification to help the CCG to understand the health needs of the local population in order to plan and commission the right services.

NHS Arden and Greater East Midlands Commissioning Support Unit (AGEM) are commissioned by the CCG to carry out this process. The risk stratification tool that AGEM use for this process is called Gemima.

What if I do not want information about me to be included (opt out)?

If you do not wish your data to be included in this process (even though it is in a format which does not directly identify you) you can choose to opt-out. In this case, please inform the Receptionist who will apply an opt-out code to your record to ensure that your information is not included.