

Data Protection Essentials

In order to undertake the High Intensity Specialist Led Acute Care research project (HiSLAC), we have been provided information about NHS patients in England. Some of this information may be your personal data. Under data protection law, where we have processed your personal data which we have obtained from someone other than you, we have to provide you with very specific information about the source of that information, what we do with it and what your rights are.

The University of Birmingham's web page '[Data Protection - How the University Uses Your Data](#)' sets out much of this information, including how to ask any questions you may have about how your personal data is used, exercise any of your rights or complain about the way your data is being handled. The rest of the key information you need to know about how we used your personal data is set out below.

Who is the Data Controller?

The University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT is the data controller for the personal data that we process in relation to you.

What data are we processing and for what purpose will we use it?

We collected and processed your personal data to conduct research projects as part of the High Intensity Specialist Led Acute Care research project (HiSLAC) project. More information about HiSLAC is provided on the project website here:

<https://www.hislac.org>

That data we hold were supplied to us by NHS Digital, the national information and technology partner to the health and social care system. They consist of anonymised records of hospital admissions. We used these to determine how many people were admitted to hospitals in England between 2007 and 2018 and to explore the reasons for admission, capture information about length of stay and outcomes such as mortality and emergency readmission after discharge. We are particularly interested in examining how all of these factors vary according to the day of the week on which patients are admitted.

The HiSLAC project involves one other University (Leicester) and a number of NHS Acute Trusts, however the storage and analysis of NHS hospital admission data is performed at the University of Birmingham. Data are not shared with third parties.

We do not use these data to support automated decision making about the treatment of patients or for the profiling of individuals.

What is our legal basis for processing your data?

There are two legal justifications we have under data protection law for processing your personal data. Firstly that it is that it is necessary for our research, a task we carry out in the public interest. This is defined under Article 6(1)(e) of GDPR as processing is necessary for the performance of a task in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller. Our holding of data is also necessary for archiving purposes in the public interest as defined in GDPR Article 9(2)(j).

Who will my personal data be shared with?

We will not share your data with any third party and no external organisations assist us with processing this particular information.

How will my personal data be kept secure?

The University takes great care to ensure that personal data is handled, stored and disposed of confidentially and securely. Our staff receive regular data protection training, and the University has put in place organisational and technical measures so that personal data is processed in accordance with the data protection principles set out in data protection law.

The University has an Information Security Management System based on ISO27001 with a range of controls covering the protection of personal information. Annual security awareness training is mandatory for staff and the University is accredited under the NHS Information Governance Toolkit, the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard and is in the process of gaining Cyber Essentials Plus for defined services.

In relation to this project, data and disaster recovery back-up copies are kept on secure, encrypted servers at three separate locations on the University of Birmingham campus. Access is restricted by password to research staff and appropriate physical measures are taken to prevent access to the physical location of data servers by unauthorised personnel.

How long will my personal data be kept?

Unprocessed data will be kept until January 2021. We need to retain processed data (aggregated data relating to research outputs such as academic papers) for up to 10 years after publication.

Are changes made to this webpage?

This privacy notice is effective from 1st January 2020 and is reviewed when necessary. Any changes will be published here.