

DATA PROTECTION OFFICE NEWS

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Proxy Access

I am aware that there is no standard approach across GP Practices for enabling proxy access. Proxy access, known as “linked patients” in EMIS, can work very well in many circumstances; however, there can be significant Data Protection implications if proxy access has been enabled and circumstances change, such as relationship breakdowns and children becoming an age where they no longer want their parent involved in their healthcare journey. It is therefore important to document any proxy access arrangements and you may wish to use the attached RCGP proxy consent form for this.

Before granting proxy access, the practice must first judge if it is in the patient’s best interests and verify the identities of the patient giving consent and the person seeking proxy access. If the patient does not have capacity to provide informed consent, the requestor must have Power of Attorney for Health & Wellbeing, be a court appointed deputy, or/ and the GP practice must confirm that it is in the best interest of the patient.

Data Protection training

In 2024, I will continue to deliver Data Protection training sessions for GP practice teams. If you think your team would benefit from a short F2F session, I am very happy to come out to your practice to support you with this.

If you wish to discuss any of the above, or any other Data Protection concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me on 07951 530 417 or Jane.hilldpo@nhs.net