

DATA PROTECTION OFFICE NEWS

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News

Practice Manager Forums/ DPO contact

I recently came to the T&G PM forum to give a DPO update and I hope to attend this meeting on a regular basis. I will be at the Oldham PM meeting on Wednesday 18th December and look forward to seeing some of you there. If you feel your practice would benefit from an individual DPO visit, please do get in touch.

EMIS to use Amazon data warehousing services

As many of you will already know, and as discussed at the T&G PM forum, EMIS has now started using the Amazon data warehouse for storing data, which will be kept in the UK. We contacted the Information Commissioners' Office to ask them whether they felt patients should be informed of this development. The ICO advised us that that as Data Controllers, you are not obliged to advise patients directly, but best practice would be to include this information in your privacy notice.

Health Intelligence Diabetic Retinopathy Screening service

There has been an ongoing discussion with Health Intelligence about the data extraction for the diabetic retinopathy screening service. It has now been agreed that it is not appropriate to use MIQUEST to extract data from your clinical system and Health Intelligence have confirmed that they will now be using GP2DRS, a programme which is already embedded into your clinical system. The GM Health & Social Care Partnership, the commissioners of this service, should be writing to you in due course to explain this.

Access to the records of Deceased Patients

Recently I have dealt with several queries about access to the health records of deceased patients. The data controller for deceased patients is NHS England and therefore if, for example, a relative wants to access the health records of a deceased patient, they should be advised to contact PCSE on 0333 014 2884 or at pcse.accessrequests@nhs.net

However, as I'm sure you're aware, it can take some time to access records via PCSE and the DPO function certainly doesn't want to obstruct the work of official bodies, such as the safeguarding team. If the Safeguarding team wanted to access the electronic record of a deceased patient which you will still hold, for example for a safeguarding review, I would advise you to give them access to the electronic record. This should of course be on the understanding that the Safeguarding Team provide the GP practice with adequate justification and a clear written request for this.

If you require any further information about any of the above, or any other data protection issues, please do not hesitate to contact me at westpenninelmcbtconnect.com, or mobile 07951 530 417.