



Information Governance Policy

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Version	Date	Comments (i.e. viewed, or reviewed, amended approved by person or committee)
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Linked procedural documents	Records Management Policy Information and Data Security Policy Data Protection Policy Internet Use Policy Digital Electronic Communications Use Policy Freedom of Information Policy Any other policies related to information governance
Dissemination requirements	All Trust Staff
Part of Trust's publication scheme	Yes

The East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust has made every effort to ensure this policy does not have the effect of unlawful discrimination on the grounds of the protected characteristics of: age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion/belief, gender, sexual orientation, marriage/civil partnership, pregnancy/maternity. The Trust will not tolerate unfair discrimination on the basis of spent criminal convictions, Trade Union membership or non-membership. In addition, the Trust will have due regard to advancing equality of opportunity between people from different groups and foster good relations between people from different groups. This policy applies to all individuals working at all levels and grades for the Trust, including senior managers, officers, directors, non-executive directors, employees (whether permanent, fixed-term or temporary), consultants, governors, contractors, trainees, seconded staff, homeworkers, casual workers and agency staff, volunteers, interns, agents, sponsors, or any other person associated with the Trust.

All Trust policies can be provided in alternative formats.

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1. Introduction

The East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust (EEAST) provides emergency and urgent care services, across 7,500 square miles and serving six million people. The Trust is a valuable public resource which is utilised to secure the best possible outcomes for patients. In doing so, it seeks to meet its vision and values, its NHS contract and to uphold the principles of the NHS Constitution. To provide these services to patients in the East of England the Trust recognises that information is a vital asset. Information is therefore of paramount importance in terms of the clinical management of patients, the financial management of the efficient use of resources to meet performance and quality standards and to meet public expectation. Appropriate and relevant strategies, policies, procedures and management accountability provide a robust governance framework to deliver the principles of information governance.

This Information Governance Policy has been developed to give assurances that the Trust will handle all information in a confidential and secure manner and in accordance with relevant quality and legislation standards appropriate to operating a modern ambulance service.

EEAST will establish and maintain policies and procedures to ensure compliance with requirements contained in the NHS England Data Security and Protection toolkit and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) and UK General Data Protection Regulations (UKGDPR) and accompanying guidance from the Information Commissioner's Office.

2. Principles of Information Governance

The Trust recognises the need for an appropriate balance between openness and confidentiality in the management and use of information. The Trust also recognises the need to share information with other health organisations and other agencies in a controlled manner consistent with the interests of the patient and in some circumstances, the public interest.

Equally important is the need to ensure high standards of data protection and confidentiality to safeguard personal/sensitive and commercially sensitive

information. Underpinning this is the integrity need for electronic and paper information to be accurate, relevant, and available to those who need it.

Staff must ensure at all times that high standards of data quality, data protection, integrity, confidentiality and records management are met in compliance with the relevant legislation and NHS guidance.

Under the GDPR and DPA there are seven principles to govern how person-identifiable information is processed:

Lawfulness, fairness and transparency

Purpose Limitation

Data Minimisation

Accuracy.

Storage Limitation.

Integrity and confidentiality (security).

Accountability

This is further supported by the Caldicott Guardian principles, outlined in the 2016 Caldicott report.

3. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to inform all Trust staff of their responsibility for ensuring that corporate, patient and personal information is safeguarded and used appropriately within the Trust. It is the responsibility of all staff to familiarise themselves with this policy and adhere to its information governance principles.

All aspects of handling personal and special categories of information are covered by this policy, including paper and electronic structured record systems and the transmission of information via mail, e-mail, fax and telephone.

Personal data is defined as Information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person ('data subject'); an identifiable natural person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier

such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person.

Special category data (formerly known as sensitive data) is more sensitive, and so needs more protection. For example, information about an individual's:

- race;
- ethnic origin;
- politics;
- religion;
- trade union membership;
- genetics;
- biometrics (where used for ID purposes);
- health;
- sex life; or
- sexual orientation.

This policy covers all systems utilised by EEAST and any individual employed, in any capacity, by the Trust.

The aims of this Trust policy are to maximise the value of the Trust's assets by ensuring:

- Openness
- Legal Compliance
- Information and data Security
- Quality Assurance

3.1 Openness

Non-confidential information on the Trust and its services will be made available to the public through its public website.

The Trust will establish and maintain policies and its publication log to ensure compliance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Patients will be able to exercise their right to access patient care record information relating to their own clinical care, through the Trust's subject access request team.

3.2 Legal Compliance

The Trust regards all identifiable personal information relating to patients as confidential.

The Trust regards all identifiable personal information relating to staff as confidential except where national policy on accountability and openness requires otherwise.

The Trust will establish and maintain policies to ensure compliance with the current data protection legislation, Human Rights Act and common law confidentiality.

The Trust will establish and maintain policies for the controlled and appropriate sharing of patient information with other agencies, taking account of relevant legislation (e.g. Health and Social Care Act, Crime and Disorder Act, Protection of Children Act).

There must be a valid lawful basis in order to process personal data. There are six available lawful basis for processing. No single basis is 'better' or more important than the others – which basis is most appropriate to use will depend on the purpose and relationship with the individual.

The lawful basis must be determined and documented before processing. The Trust privacy notice should include the lawful basis for processing as well as the purposes of the processing. Processing of special category data requires both a lawful basis for general processing and an additional condition for processing.

The lawful bases for processing are set out in Article 6 of the GDPR. At least one of these must apply whenever you process personal data:

- (a) Consent:
- (b) Contract:
- (c) Legal obligation:

(d) Vital interests:

(e) Public task:

(f) Legitimate interests:

When processing special category data, both a lawful basis for processing and a special category condition for processing are required, in compliance with Article 9. You should document both your lawful basis for processing and your special category condition so that you can demonstrate compliance and accountability. This type of data could create more significant risks to a person's fundamental rights and freedoms. For example, by putting them at risk of unlawful discrimination. The Information Governance Team and Data Protection Officer will help determine the legal basis for personal and special category data.

3.3 Information and Data Security

The Trust will establish and maintain policies for the effective and secure management of its information assets and resources.

The Trust will promote effective confidentiality and security practice to its staff through policies and training.

The Trust will establish and maintain incident reporting procedures and will monitor and investigate all reported instances of actual or potential breaches of confidentiality and security.

3.4 Information Quality Assurance

The Trust will establish and maintain policies and procedures for information quality assurance and the effective management of records.

Managers are expected to take ownership of, and seek to improve, the quality of information within their departments. Wherever possible, information quality should be assured to the point of collection.

Data standards will be set through clear and consistent definition of data items, in accordance with national standards.

The Trust will promote information quality and effective records management through policies, procedures/user manuals and training.

4. Duties

4.1 Trust Board

Ultimate responsibility for information governance in the Trust rests with the Trust Board who will ensure that the information governance strategy is implemented via this information governance policy and related policies

4.2 Chief Executive

As the accountable officer for the Trust, the Chief Executive is responsible for meeting all statutory requirements and required to provide assurance that all information risks to the Trust are effectively identified, managed and mitigated. Details of incidents involving data loss or confidentiality breaches must be recorded on Datix and, if required, on the NHS England Incident Reporting tool, with onward reporting to the Information Commissioner's Office, the Department of Health and Social Care, NHS England and the National Cyber Security Centre

4.3 Senior Information Risk Owner

The Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO) is responsible to ensure all information risks are correctly identified, managed and that appropriate assurance mechanisms exist. This is achieved through ownership of the Information Asset Register and ensuring that risk assessment processes are completed and implemented by the Information Asset Owners. Business continuity plans will be reviewed by the SIRO to ensure that all information risks are linked to business continuity plan and are exercised on a regular basis. The SIRO will ensure that the Trust has systems in place that detail and monitor information flow mapping contained on the Information Asset Register, both internal and external, including the Record of Processing Activities (RoPA).

The SIRO is required to provide advice to the accountable officer (Chief Executive) on the content of the Trust's statement of internal control in regard to information risk and for bringing data protection issues for consideration to the Trust Board and act as advocate for information risk on the Trust Board

4.4 Caldicott Guardian

The Caldicott Guardian is responsible for protecting the confidentiality of patient and service-user information and enabling appropriate information-sharing. The Caldicott Guardian is responsible for providing advice within the Trust on the lawful and ethical processing of patient information and will represent and champion Information Governance requirements and issues at Board level. The Caldicott Guardian will ensure that confidentiality issues are reflected in the Trust's strategies, policies and procedures for staff. In addition the Caldicott Guardian will oversee all arrangements, protocols and procedures where confidential patient information may be shared with external bodies both within, and outside, the Trust.

4.5 Data Protection Officer

The Data Protection Officer (DPO) has the leadership function for Data Protection, maintaining the confidence of patients, staff and the public, through advice and guidance on the creation of robust and effective mechanisms and assurance processes to protect and appropriately handle person-identifiable information. The DPO will be the first point of contact for any data protection related queries both internal and from external parties and will drive forward the information governance agenda. The DPO will report any serious information governance concerns via the Caldicott Guardian and SIRO to the Chief Executive and will retain operational independence at all times.

4.6 Audit Committee

The Audit Committee will report to the Trust Board on the operation of the Trust's Information Governance Policy. The Committee will receive appropriate information via the Information Governance Group and will monitor compliance with all relevant legislation and this policy.

4.7 Information Governance Group

The Trust's Information Governance Group (IGG) has responsibility for the formulation of Information Governance policies. This group has senior level representation from all appropriate departments within the Trust to ensure

the Trust steers this agenda in line with current legislation. The Information Governance Group will receive reports on the Trust's compliance with the timescales laid out by the current data protection legislation from the Information Governance Manager and Human Resources Department. They will also monitor the types of requests received and the type of applicants making the requests.

The Information Governance Group will monitor the release of information from the Trust; feeding any recommendations for improvement to the Audit Committee and is reportable to the Audit Committee to provide assurance around Information Governance. The IGG will also approve central returns required by NHS England, specifically in reference to the Data Security and Protection Toolkit (DSPT).

4.8 Director of Quality

The Director of Quality is responsible for overseeing the information governance systems and processes within the Trust, raising awareness of information governance issues, and ensuring that good information governance practices are adopted.

4.9 Head of Information Governance and Data Security

The Head of Information Governance and Data Security provides a lead role in developing an information governance and security culture and function throughout the Trust. Bringing together policies, procedures and controls that increase and continually improve compliance to regulation, legislation and the continually evolving data security landscape.

4.10 Information Governance Manager

The Information Governance Manager provides day-to-day operational management of Information Governance processes within the Trust. Supports the Head of Information Governance and Data Security in developing appropriate policies and procedures. This role is responsible for organising and enforcing the Trust's approach to data protection. The Information Governance Manager will ensure that the Information Governance Work Plan is implemented and that a senior manager is nominated for each work area.

4.11 Trust Managers

Staff with areas of responsibility related to information governance is expected to have input to the Trust's information governance agenda, either by membership of the Information Governance Group, as responsible officers for DSPT requirements, or by ad-hoc input, as required. They should ensure that the working practices carried out within their department are in line with Trust policy and that all staff are adequately trained.

4.12 All Staff (including temporary and volunteers)

All staff are responsible for ensuring that they adhere to this policy and implement best practice in relation to information governance wherever possible. They are responsible for raising incidents relating to information governance on the incident reporting system or via their line manager. All staff are required to undertake their annual mandatory information governance training.

4.13 Consultation and Communication with Stakeholders

This policy is reviewed and approved by the Information Governance Group, which includes key information governance stakeholders from corporate and operational areas in the Trust.

5. Effective Information Governance Management

5.1 Data Security and Protection Toolkit (DSPT) and internal audit

From April 2018, the Trust's IG compliance will be measured by a self-assessment process of compliance against the ten standards set out in the Data Security and Protection Toolkit. This is and will be complemented by the annual internal audit and any recommendations made are monitored by the Audit Committee and Information Governance Group.

5.2 Care Quality Commission Oversight

CQC, as outlined in Safe Data, Safe Care (2016) have powers to inspect the Trust's IG as part of its inspection round. To this end the Trust must ensure

that robust IG practices are in place. CQC specifically requires that Medical Records are accurate, fit for purpose, held securely and held confidential.

5.3 Mandatory training and awareness

Fundamental to the ever-developing information governance agenda is the engagement and awareness of staff. This is currently driven by the requirement for 95% of staff to have completed information governance training (IG and Data Security Training Needs Analysis).

Information Governance is included in the Trust induction training and as part of the annual mandatory update training for all staff and a full training needs analysis has been completed in relation to these aspects. Additional training can also be requested at the discretion of a manager, or by an individual wanting personal development. The Trust identifies that key staff or staff groups will require additional training, such as the SIRO, Caldicott Guardian and Data Protection Officer as well as specific staffing groups.

The Learning and Development team, in conjunction with the Information Governance Manager, is responsible for designing an Information Governance training package. Uptake of training is monitored through the Learning and Development Department.

Further guidance and information relating to IG issues will be distributed periodically via various media including bulletins and newsletters

5.4 Information Asset Management and Business Continuity

A core IG objective is that information assets and the use of information in them are identified and that the business importance of those assets is established.

Information assets are those that are central to the efficient running of the Trust and specific departments, e.g. patient, finance, stock control etc, essentially, it is information that is of value to the organisation and would be problematic if it were not accessible.

Information Asset Owner's are usually senior members of staff who are the nominated owner for one or more of the Trust's identified information assets and it is their responsibility to record their information assets on the Trust's Information Asset Register; review these at least annually and undertake a

Data Flow Mapping exercise. The Information Asset Register is overseen by the Trust's SIRO and identified risks will be recorded on the Trust's Risk Register. All data flows should have a documented legal basis and this should be recorded on the Information Asset Register.

5.5 Data Protection Impact Assessments

In line with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) guidance, a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) should be completed on any new or changing transfer of personal data. This could be the procurement of a new system or changes to how we use information in an existing asset.

These assessments must be completed by the nominated project leads with advice and support provided by the Information Governance Manager and/or team. The assessments are approved by the Trust's DPO and tabled at IGG. More information can be found in the Data Protection by Design/Default Policy.

5.6 Confidentiality

Decisions about any disclosure of personal/sensitive information must be made on a case by case basis referring to the concepts laid down in this policy.

A duty of confidence arises when a person discloses information to another in circumstances where it is reasonable to expect that the information will be held in confidence. It is therefore:

- A legal obligation that is derived from case law – the Common Law Duty of Confidence
- A requirement established within professional codes of conduct – HCPC, MNC, GMC
- A clause within your contract of employment linked to internal procedures such as the disciplinary procedures.

Never give out information to persons who do not “need to know” in order to provide health care and treatment, or for any other reason.

All requests for patient identifiable information should be justified. This applies whether the request comes from within the Trust or from some

outside organisation. Some requests may need to be agreed by the Trust's Caldicott Guardian. They should be contacted if you are in doubt about disclosure or if you are aware of poor practice within the Trust which may be putting patient confidentiality at risk.

5.7 Registration Authority

The Trust delegates the responsibility of the registration authority work stream to the information governance department alongside the Workforce Planning and Information team and the Digital Team.

6. Transfer of information into and out of the Trust

The Information Governance Team will ensure information flows into and outside of the Trust are appropriately recorded on the Trust's management system and monitored for review annually. Any risks associated with these information flows will be identified and recorded on the Trust's risk register.

These information flows will be completed in line with the Caldicott Guardian principles, contractual terms and the current data protection legislation.

Information Sharing Agreements are reviewed by the Information Governance Team and signed off by the Caldicott Guardian, DPO or SIRO, where appropriate. All approved ISAs are tabled at the Information Governance Group and are stored centrally by the IG Team on the Trust's Policy management software.

7. Disclosure of Information

The disclosure of any personal data outside of the points above will be processed under the Data Protection Policy and disclosure of corporate information will be dealt with under the Freedom of Information Policy.

7.1 Data Subject Rights

Data subjects have increased rights under the new data protection legislation:

- The right to be informed
- The right of access

- The right to rectification
- The right to erasure
- The right to restrict processing
- The right to data portability
- The right to object
- Rights in relation to automated decision making and profiling.

8. Incident and Risk Management

Any incidents related to information governance should be reported on the Trust's incident reporting system, DATIX. A decision will be taken whether it is necessary to report this to the Information Commissioner through the NHS England Incident reporting tool to support this decision. A serious breach of any information governance policy could result in action being taken under the Trust's Disciplinary Policy.

The Information Governance Manager will identify potential risks to the Trust from the incident investigation process and record these onto the Trust's Risk Register. These risks will be reviewed by the Information Governance Manager monthly and at the Information Governance Group on an annual basis.

9. Equality Impact Assessment

An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken, and can be found under Appendix B

10. Process for Monitoring Compliance and Effectiveness

See Appendix A – Monitoring Table.

The security and integrity of the information processes within EEAST will be monitored for compliance by the Information Governance Group who will escalate any areas of concern to the Audit Committee.

11. Standards/Key Performance Indicators

The Key Performance Indicator for this Policy is satisfactory compliance with the requirements of the annual NHS Digital Data Security and Protection Toolkit return.

12. References

- Data Protection Act 2018
- EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
- The Common Law Duty of Confidentiality
- Access to Health Records Act 1990
- Freedom of Information Act 2000
- The Human Rights Act 1998 (article 8);
- Computer Misuse Act 1990
- ISO 9000 Information Security Management
- The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (section 115);
- Civil Contingencies Act 2000
- Protection of Children Act 2010
- Clinical Information Quality Assurance
- Corporate Information Quality Assurance
- Records Management: NHS Code of Practice
- NHS England Contract
- NHS Operating Framework
- Caldicott Guardian seven principles
- Data Security and Protection Toolkit
- Electronic Communications Act 2000
- A Paperless NHS: Electronic Health Records

Appendices

- A Monitoring Table
- B Equality Analysis

Appendix A – Monitoring Table

What	Who	How	Frequency	Evidence	Reporting arrangements	Acting on recommendations	Change in practice and lessons to be shared
Data Security and Protection Toolkit	Information Governance Team	Progress reports from IG Team. Review of interim Toolkit scores. Review of independent internal audit reports.	Bi-monthly updates at IGG. Update to CRG and Audit Committee	Formal written reports.	Review by Information Governance Group. Formal progress reports will be discussed and required actions and timescales agreed. Decisions of the Group will be formally recorded in minutes.	Information Governance Manager with support from the IG Team and designated IGG members.	Review of processes underpinning the IG Toolkit scores, to improve the Trust's overall IG framework and hence compliance with the requirements of the Toolkit.
Information Governance Risk Register	Information Governance Team. SIRO.	Progress reports from IG Team. Monitoring of the Trust Risk Register (4Risk).	Bi-monthly updates at IGG. .	Summary reports from the 4Risk system.	Review by Information Governance Group. Ongoing monitoring by the Risk Manager. Formal progress reports will be discussed at IGG and required actions and timescales agreed.	Information Governance Manager Other risk leads deemed responsible for the area where the IG risk occurs.	Action taken to improve controls and mitigate any IG-related risks, reducing risk score.

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What	Who	How	Frequency	Evidence	Reporting arrangements	Acting on recommendations	Change in practice and lessons to be shared
					Decisions of the Group will be formally recorded in minutes.		
Information Governance Awareness Training	Information Governance Team. Learning and Development Team	Training completion reports.	Monthly reports from L&D Team. Bi-monthly updates at IGG. Update to CRG and Audit Committee	Formal written reports.	Review by Information Governance Group. Ongoing monitoring by the Learning and Development Manager. Formal progress reports will be discussed at IGG and required actions and timescales agreed. Decisions of the Group will be formally recorded in minutes.	Information Governance Manager Learning and Development Manager.	Action taken to ensure that all staff have completed either information governance induction training or annual refresher training.
Data breaches reported within the Trust	Information Governance Team	Data breach report to IGG,	Bi-monthly updates at IGG.	Formal written reports.	Review by Information Governance Group. Formal progress reports will be discussed and required	Information Governance Team, IGG, Audit Committee	ICO Recommendations will be provided in paper to IGG, any actions or learning

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What	Who	How	Frequency	Evidence	Reporting arrangements	Acting on recommendations	Change in practice and lessons to be shared
			Update to CRG and Audit Committee		actions and timescales agreed. Also reviewed by DPO, and SIRO		disseminated to managers and staff via learning tool and EAST24

Appendix B - Equality Impact Assessment

EIA Cover Sheet																	
Name of process/policy	Information Governance Policy																
Is the process new or existing? If existing, state policy reference number	POL009																
Person responsible for process/policy	Information Governance Manager																
Directorate and department/section	Governance																
Name of assessment lead or EIA assessment team members	Information Governance Manager																
Has consultation taken place? Was consultation internal or external? (please state below):	Internal																
The assessment is being made on:	<table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Guidelines</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Written policy involving staff and patients</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Strategy</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Changes in practice</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Department changes</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Project plan</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Action plan</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Other (please state) Training programme.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Guidelines		Written policy involving staff and patients	X	Strategy		Changes in practice		Department changes		Project plan		Action plan		Other (please state) Training programme.	
	Guidelines																
	Written policy involving staff and patients	X															
	Strategy																
	Changes in practice																
	Department changes																
	Project plan																
	Action plan																
Other (please state) Training programme.																	

Equality Analysis

What is the aim of the policy/procedure/practice/event?

This information governance policy has been developed to give assurances that the Trust will handle all information in a confidential and secure manner and in accordance with relevant quality and legislation standards appropriate to operating a modern ambulance service.

Who does the policy/procedure/practice/event impact on?

Race	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	Marriage/Civil Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gender re-assignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pregnancy/maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>
N/A					

Who is responsible for monitoring the policy/procedure/practice/event?

Information Governance Manager, Head of Information Governance and Security, SIRO

What information is currently available on the impact of this policy/procedure/practice/event?

Do you need more guidance before you can make an assessment about this policy/procedure/ practice/event? Yes/No

No

Do you have any examples that show that this policy/procedure/practice/event is having a positive impact on any of the following protected characteristics? Yes/No, If yes please provide evidence/examples:

Race	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	Marriage/Civil Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>

Equality Analysis

Age ☐ **Gender re-assignment** ☐ **Pregnancy/maternity** ☐

Please provide evidence:

The Policy is E&D neutral and has no impact, positive or negative.

Are there any concerns that this policy/procedure/practice/event could have a negative impact on any of the following characteristics? Yes/No, if so please provide evidence/examples:

Race ☐ **Religion/belief** ☐ **Marriage/Civil** ☐

Partnership

Gender ☐ **Disability** ☐ **Sexual orientation** ☐

Age ☐ **Gender re-assignment** ☐ **Pregnancy/maternity** ☐

Please provide evidence:

The Policy is E&D neutral and has no impact, positive or negative.

Action Plan/Plans - SMART

Specific

Measurable

Achievable

Relevant

Time Limited

Evaluation Monitoring Plan/how will this be monitored?

Who:

How:

By:

Reported to: