Dear Sarah,

Collection of Out of Area Placements for Adults in Acute Mental Health Inpatient Services Direction (Extension No 3) 2018

I am writing to provide a Direction to the Health and Social Care Information Centre, known as, and hereafter referred to in this Direction as NHS Digital, to continue to operate an informatics support service for the collection of information about out of area placements (OAPs) for adults in acute mental health inpatient services. This Direction, known as the Collection of Out of Area Placements for Adults in Acute Mental Health Inpatient Services Direction (Extension No 3) 2018 comes into force on 1 October 2018 and ends on 31st March 2019. The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care reserves the right to instruct NHS Digital to continue this collection until 31st October 2019 in the event that funding is available. Such an instruction would be in writing and will be published alongside the Direction. -This Direction is given in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 254(1), (2)(b) and (6), 260(1) and (2)(d), 262(1) and (2)(a), 274(2) and 304(9), (10) and (12) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012¹ (the Act) and Regulation 32 of the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (Constitution and Functions) and the Health and Social Care Information Centre (Functions) Regulations 2013².

Purpose

The Government has set a national ambition to eliminate inappropriate OAPs for adult acute inpatients by 2020/21.

An inappropriate “out of area placement” is defined as a situation in which a person with assessed acute mental health needs, who requires adult mental health acute inpatient care, is admitted to a unit that does not form part of the usual local network of services (an inpatient unit that does not usually admit people living in the catchment area of the persons local community mental health service), and where the person cannot be visited regularly by their care co-ordinator.

Under section 254 of the Act, NHS Digital is Directed to:

- Collect data that includes administrative information, information about the reasons for admission, and diagnostic information about adults who receive acute inpatient care in mental health services. This data will be aggregated at provider and CCG level and all data, in

¹ 2012 c.7
² S.I. 2013/259
accordance with NHS Digital’s mandatory standards or Anonymisation Standard for Publishing Health and Social Care Data, will be anonymised when published on NHS Digital’s website. The Department has agreed for this information to continue to be published on a monthly basis for a further twelve-month period.

- Share aggregate data at CCG provider level collected under this direction, in accordance with NHS Digital’s mandatory standards or Anonymisation Standard for Publishing Health and Social Care Data, with the Department of Health and Social Care, NHS England, NHS Improvement, NHS organisations and Independent Sector Providers responsible for commissioning and providing acute mental health services in England.

NHS Digital must take steps to ensure that no data collected under this Direction are shared or published by any means which may lead to the identification of an individual.

In accordance with section 254(2)(b) of the Act, the Secretary of State considers that it is in the interests of the health service or of the recipients or providers of adult social care in England for these Directions to be given.

In accordance with s254(5), NHS Digital has been consulted before this Direction has been given.

Yours sincerely,

Kathy Smethurst
Deputy Director, Mental Health Policy and Delivery
Department of Health and Social Care