



Department
of Health &
Social Care

Department of Health and
Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0EU

Sir James Mackey
Chief Executive
NHS England

11th September 2026

Dear Sir James,

1. NHS Genomic Medicine Services Directions 2026

- 1.1 I am writing on behalf of the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care (the **Secretary of State**) to give Directions to NHS England.
- 1.2 These Directions are given in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 254(1), 260(2)(d), 261(2)(e) and 304(9), (10) and (12) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012¹ (the **2012 Act**), sections 13ZC and 272(7) and (8) of the National Health Service Act 2006² (the **2006 Act**) and regulation 32 of the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (Constitution and Functions) and NHS England (Information Functions) Regulations 2013³ (the **Regulations**).
- 1.3 The service enabled by these Directions is operated by NHS England in the exercise of its powers under sections 1, 1H, 2 and Chapter A1 of Part 2 of the 2006 Act and regulation 11 of the National Health Service Commissioning Board and Clinical Commissioning Groups (Responsibilities and Standard Rules) Regulations 2012.

¹ 2012 c.7 (the 2012 Act). Relevant amendments were made by the Health and Social Care Information Centre (Transfer of Functions, Abolition and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 2023/98).

² 2006 c.41. Section 13ZC was inserted by section 45 of the Health and Care Act 2022 (c.31).

³ S.I. 2013/259 as amended by S.I. 2023/98.

- 1.4 These Directions are to be known as the **NHS Genomic Medicine Services Directions 2026** and come into force on the date after the day on which they are signed.

2. Requirement for these Directions

- 2.1 In accordance with section 254(2)(b) of the 2012 Act, the Secretary of State considers that it is in the interests of the health service in England or of the recipients or providers of adult social care in England for these Directions to be given.
- 2.2 In accordance with section 254(5) of the 2012 Act, the Secretary of State has consulted NHS England before giving these Directions.
- 2.3 In accordance with section 13ZC (5) of the 2006 Act, the Secretary of State considers these Directions to be in the public interest.
- 2.4 In accordance with Regulation 32(1) of the Regulations the Secretary of State is requiring NHS England to exercise such systems delivery functions of the Secretary of State as specified in these Directions.

3. Priorities, Policies and Non-Statutory Guidance

exercising functions under these Directions, NHS England must have regard to such priorities, policies and non-statutory guidance⁴ may notify in writing from time to time to NHS England.

4. Purpose

5. The purpose of these Directions (the **Purpose**) is to enable NHS England to deliver NHS genomic medicine services (the **Genomic Medicine Services**) in line with **NHS England's strategy for accelerating genomic medicine in the NHS**⁵ (the **Genomic Medicine Strategy**) and the key genomic medicine provisions of **the 10 Year Health Plan for England**⁶.

- 5.1 This will support the development of a comprehensive national approach to genomic medicine, covering prevention, diagnosis and targeted treatments that enables patients, families and carers to participate in shared decision making and to meet priority strategy Genomic Medicine Strategy areas.

6. Establishing and operating information systems

- 6.1 The Secretary of State directs NHS England to establish and operate a system for the collection and analysis of the information described in the

⁴In addition, NHS England has a duty to have regard to [statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State under section 274A of the 2012 Act: NHS England's protection of patient data, 23 May 2023](#), as the same may be updated from time to time.

⁵ <https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/accelerating-genomic-medicine-in-the-nhs/>

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/10-year-health-plan-for-england-fit-for-the-future>

related Requirements Specifications as referred to in paragraph 5.2 below and to do so in accordance with those Requirements Specifications.

- 6.2 It is anticipated that there will be multiple collections and analyses within the scope of these Directions. Each collection and associated analysis will have a requirements specification published alongside these Directions as may be updated periodically by the Secretary of State in consultation with NHS England (**the Requirements Specifications**).
- 6.3 The Requirements Specification published at the date of signing of these Directions is the NHS Genomics Order Management Service Requirements Specification.
- 6.4 The Secretary of State directs NHS England to analyse the information which NHS England obtains by complying with these Directions (**the Information**), as may be required by the Secretary of State or as NHS England considers necessary to achieve the Purpose.
- 6.5 Such analysis includes:
 - 6.5.1 analysis by reference or linkage to any other information described in the Requirements Specification(s);
 - 6.5.2 analysis for data quality purposes, including undertaking comparison and consistency analysis of the same or similar information obtained by complying with other directions under section 254 of the 2012 Act;
 - 6.5.3 any other analysis of the Information as NHS England considers appropriate to maintain data quality, accuracy and consistency in relation to the Information.
- 6.6 In exercising functions under these Directions, NHS England must act in accordance with the Requirements Specification(s) and generally in such a way as to achieve the Purpose.

7. System delivery functions

The Secretary of State directs NHS England to exercise such systems delivery functions of the Secretary of State as are necessary or expedient for it to establish and operate the Genomic Medicine Service and to enable and facilitate the Purpose.

8. Service Levels etc

In exercising functions under these Directions, NHS England must act in accordance with the service levels, support and monitoring requirements, and the reporting and governance requirements notified by the Secretary of State in writing to NHS England as at the date these Directions come into force, or as those requirements are amended and notified by an authorised officer of the Department of Health and Social Care on behalf of the Secretary of State in writing to NHS England from time to time.

9. Publication

section 260(1) and (2)(d) of the 2012 Act, certain of the Information might be set out in any of the Requirements Specifications as not for publication (**Non-Published Data**) under section 260(2)(d) of the 2012 Act (and must not be published)⁷.

10. Dissemination

Despite the prohibition on publication set out in paragraph 8, the power to disseminate under section 261(1) of the 2012 Act applies to the Non-Published Data (and it may be disseminated)⁸.

11. Fees and Accounts

11.1 NHS England must keep proper accounts, and proper records in relation to the accounts, in connection with these Directions.

11.2 The Secretary of State may make payments to NHS England for things done in the exercise of the systems delivery functions referred to at paragraph 6

12. Duration

NHS England must exercise functions under these Directions until they are revoked by a further direction in writing by an authorised officer of the Department of Health and Social Care on behalf of the Secretary of State.

13. Review of these Directions

These Directions will be reviewed from time to time. Any amendments to the Directions or the Requirements Specification(s) will only be made after consultation with NHS England.

Yours sincerely



Signed by authority of the Secretary of State

Date signed: 11th September 2026

⁷ Such information is specified as information falling within section 260(2)(d) and the prohibition in section 260(1) on publishing information accordingly applies to it.

⁸ See section 261(2)(e) of the 2012 Act for NHS England's power to disseminate information which it is prohibited from publishing only by virtue of a direction given under section 260(2)(d).