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Spine Services (No 2) Requirements Specification

Document management

Revision History

Version	Date	Summary of Changes
1.0	21/04/2026	Taken to version 1.0 for publication following approvals of version 0.1

Reviewers

This document must be reviewed by the following people:

Reviewer name	Title / Responsibility	Date	Version
REDACTED	DHSC, Higher Executive Officer	23/12/2025	0.1
REDACTED	IG Lead, NHS England	18/3/2026	0.1
REDACTED	Solicitor, NHS England	18/3/2026	0.1
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Kevin Willis	Head of Information Law, NHS England	23/03/2026	0.1
Ming Tang	Chief Data and Analytics Officer and Interim Chief Information Officer, NHS England	07/04/2026	0.1
Arjun Dhillon	Deputy Caldicott Guardian, NHS England	24/03/2026	0.1

Approved by

This document must be approved by the following people:

Name	Title	Date	Version
Mary De Silva	Deputy Director Data Policy Department for Health and Social Care	21/04/2026	0.1
Jackie Gray	Director of Privacy and Information Governance, NHS England	31/03/2026	0.1
Meghana Pandit	National Medical Director and Caldicott Guardian, NHS England, NHS England	07/04/2026	0.1

Purpose of document

This document is the Spine Services Requirements Specification referenced in paragraph 1(2) of the [Spine services \(no 2\) 2014 Direction](#) (Directions), as amended by the Spine Services (no2) Amendment Directions 2026 (Amendment Directions).

This document replaces the Annex previously published within the Directions, which has been removed by the Amendment Directions.

Spine Services

Spine service reference	Name of Service	Description of Service
A	The Personal Demographics Service (PDS)	<p>The PDS holds data on an individual that enables the individual to be readily identified by staff quickly and accurately for purposes connected to health care, social care, safeguarding and welfare.</p> <p>The PDS is the central and single source for patient demographic information, such as NHS number, name, address and date of birth, ethnicity etc. It provides for the storage and retrieval of live demographic data on each person holding an NHS number and management of births and deaths information and legacy migrations</p>
B	Summary Care Record and Patient Flag Service	<p>The service is the database holding clinical data in the form of Summary Care Record (including additional information) and patient flags (e.g. clinical conditions, reasonable adjustments and family history flags) and associated systems, for the purposes of managing and sharing clinical data with health and care professionals and with patients (e.g. via NHS App).</p>
C	The Electronic Prescription Service (EPS)	<p>The EPS (also known as ETP, the Electronic Transfer of Prescriptions) allows prescribers and dispensers working in care settings to undertake prescribing and dispensing activities, including generation and transmission of electronic prescriptions using computer systems.</p>
D	The Transaction Messaging Service (TMS)	<p>The TMS enables clinical messages from users of computer systems and services to be securely routed to the service they are requesting</p>

E	National Care Record Service (NCRS)	The supporting web interfaces of the SCR and patient flag service and NCRS interfaced with supporting Graphical User Interface. This was previously known as the Summary Care Record Application
F	The access control framework (ACF) (and any replacement service to ACF)	The ACF authenticates and controls access to summary care record, patient flags and associated systems
G	The Demographic Spine Application (DSA)	The DSA is a Graphical User Interface (GUI) that provides access to data held on the PDS.
H	The TMS Event Services (TES)	The TES Service is an alerts and notification system.
I	The Data Transfer Services (DTS)	The Data Transfer Services are mechanisms allowing the NHS to share information efficiently and securely. They support GP to GP (e.g. MESH) information sharing and enable pathology information to be shared across the NHS.
J	The Care Identity Service (CIS)	The CIS is the service which provides access control, security and information governance protection to systems and services, and which supports and manages access by all entities, and protects the Spine. It also deals with the accreditation of third parties' access and the management of interfaces to third parties.
K	Supporting Services (including system audit)	The associated systems and services required to provide the services detailed in this specification including information and asset management, project management and planning, consultancy, hosting, helpdesk service and support, audit of access to systems, testing, archiving, development and continuous improvement, and decommissioning for the services set out in this specification.
L	The Enhanced Reporting System (ERS) (and known as Spine Reporting System)	The ERS is a system which is used to report on Spine performance and access. Includes death reports, audit reports and subject access reports.
M	The Spine Directory Service (SDS)	This is the main information source within the Spine. It comprises the Spine User Directory and Spine Accredited Systems and Services, which ensure that transactions/messages are only

		processed from authorised users and systems. It is therefore a key component of the security of the Spine.
N	The Secondary Uses Service (SUS)	SUS is the single, comprehensive repository for healthcare data in England which enables a range of reporting and analyses to support the NHS in the delivery of healthcare services. This includes acting as the national repository for all Commissioning Data Set (CDS) submissions, calculation of Payment by Results data and providing data to the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) system

Governance and Assurance Controls

This Specification describes the Spine Services delivered. Delivery is documented within the following internal documents for such services:

- Master Data Specifications
- Data Protection Impact Assessments
- Privacy Notices

Where new functions, users, services and purposes are developed, they must align with this Specification. Additionally, the above documents must be amended or created to reflect these new functions, users, services and purposes and approved through the appropriate NHS England information governance processes.

Change control process

Changes to this Specification will be managed by NHS England in conjunction with the Department of Health and Social Care to ensure such changes are aligned with the Health and Social Care Information Centre (Spine Services) (No. 2) Directions 2014.