The Mid and South Essex Population Health Management and Risk Stratification Programme

Analysis of Data to Help Understand the Health and Care Needs of our Population

Purpose

Your local CCGs are working in collaboration with the Practice to enhance their ability to meet the healthcare needs of our patients. CCGs can analyse data, in a format which does not identify individuals, and use the results to help them make decisions on measures to help prevent ill-health, improve care, reduce hospital admissions and help ensure that the most effective services are available for our patients. Such analysis is known as the "The Mid and South Essex Population Health Management and Risk Stratification Programme."

This Programme will support the Practice, for example, in identifying patients with long term health conditions and patients who are at high risk of emergency hospital admission. The Programme also looks to understand the population's current, and future, health and care needs. Action can then be taken in tailoring better care and support for patients and to assist CCGs to design more joined up and sustainable health and care services to make better use of public resources, alongside looking at support networks and care systems in those areas to ensure the wellbeing of that population.

NHS England encourages us as GPs to be involved in such Programmes as part of our involvement in local strategies for supporting patients with long-term conditions, such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and diabetes, to help prevent hospital admissions that could have been avoided, as well as helping us in the Practice in providing direct care support for our patients.

How We Use Your Information in relation to Population Health Management and Risk Stratification

We will use a mix of current and historic information about our patients such as age, gender, diagnoses, prescriptions, attendances and other healthcare data collected within the Practice.   We will use the services of an approved NHS Commissioning Support Unit (Arden and Greater East Midlands CSU) to convert the data of our patients into a format which does not identify individuals to anyone outside of the Practice. The data will have a key to enable it to be linked to other health or social care data provided to the Programme and also to enable the Practice to re-identify the information when needed, in order to provide care for our patients.

NHS Digital also provides data about hospital attendances to the Programme and will soon be able to provide data on social services attendances. This data will also be in a format which does not directly identify any patients. The data will then be linked to the de-identified data about you from our Practice.

When your data is analysed various formulas and techniques will be used to identify patients who might benefit from clinical and other interventions to help in prevent illness or acute deterioration. The results relating to the patients registered at our Practice are provided back to us. Only authorised staff of our Practice who are responsible for providing direct care for you are able access the information in a format that identifies you so that they can assess who would benefit or require intervention. This will help our clinical team make better decisions about your future care, for example we may invite you in for a review or if we think you may benefit from a referral to a new service, we will discuss this with you.

The CCG is provided with reports containing information which does not identify you, to help them ensure they are commissioning and planning for the right services as required by the population we serve.

Keeping your information confidential and secure
On behalf of our Practice, the CCG has entered into a contract with NHS Arden and Greater East Midlands Commissioning Support Unit (AGEM CSU) to run the Mid and South Essex Population Health Management and Risk Stratification Programme. They are hosted by NHS England and approved to conduct this service and provide the analysis for us.

AGEM CSU will be acting on behalf of our Practice, as a data processor. We have entered into an Agreement with them to ensure that the analysis process will be conducted in accordance with Data Protection Regulations and conformance with NHS rules. This has been done to keep your data secure at all times and to protect confidentiality.

Only authorised staff within our Practice will be able to access information about our patients in a format that reveals an individual's identify. The CCG will not have access to any information that will reveal any patient's identity.

What if I do not want information about me to be included (opt out)?
If you do not wish your data to be included in this process (even though it is in a format which does not directly identify you) you can choose to opt-out. In this case, please inform the Receptionist who will apply an opt-out code to your record to ensure that your information is not included.

What should I do if I have further questions?

There are a number of places where you can learn more information about how the NHS analyses information

NHSE Information about risk stratification & Population Health Management is also available https://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/tsd/ig/risk-stratification/
https://www.england.nhs.uk/integratedcare/building-blocks/phm/

the following link is a short video clip developed by the Kings Fund which provides one view of population health there are others and is not currently consistently implemented across the NHS https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/audio-video/population-health-animation