

Anonymisation & data linkage

Requirement

- Require a generic (national) standard of an agreed process of anonymisation

Obstacles: acceptable level of anonymisation

- Need advice and strategy on what must be removed as part of the anonymisation process
 - Name, address, postcode
 - DoB, age, gender, clinician names/codes
 - Hospital name/codes
- Remove the ability to identify specific individuals in the anonymised data set (identify 1 person in X of population – what is an acceptable value for X ?)
- The resulting anonymised data set must be useful for research/teaching

Possible Solutions

- Propose to keep identifiable data on the NHS server, but anonymise and encrypt it once it leaves this safe haven.
- Get key people together (data protection & users/researchers) to agree the anonymisation solution – either at a national level or start at a health board level.