

November 2016

Dear Practice Manager

We are writing to inform you about a forthcoming extract of primary care data for use by UK Biobank from practices using the Vision practice management system.

UK Biobank is a prominent resource for health research and a registered charity supported by the NHS, and funded by the Medical Research Council and Wellcome Trust. UK Biobank is following the health of 500,000 adults from throughout England, Wales and Scotland who joined the project voluntarily between 2006 and 2010. Each participant gave consent for UK Biobank to receive copies of their medical and other health-related records for research purposes. During their assessment visit, all of UK Biobank's 500,000 participants provided informed consent to link to their health-related records, http://www.ukbiobank.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/Consent_form.pdf.

Participants could not have taken part in UK Biobank without signing the consent form. Their consent was provided on the basis that it is for the lifetime of the UK Biobank project. UK Biobank remains in regular contact with its participants via its website, annual newsletters and requests to take part in enhancement projects. Participants can withdraw from UK Biobank at any time, without giving a reason. The withdrawal options are set out on the UK Biobank website (www.ukbiobank.ac.uk/faqs/can-i-withdraw-from-uk-biobank) although to date very few participants have chosen to withdraw.

UK Biobank is already providing approved scientists with a wide range of anonymised data and samples to study the interaction of genes, lifestyle and environment in causing a wide range of diseases (such as cancer, heart disease, dementia, diabetes, depression and arthritis).

Further, UK Biobank has routinely linked to national death and cancer registries and to national hospital data electronic record systems for all its participants since 2010. UK Biobank has also established linkages to primary care records from a large and ever-increasing proportion of its participants (now over 50%) in England, Wales and Scotland.

With the endorsement of the Royal College of General Practitioners, and following careful review of UK Biobank's Ethics and Governance Framework, information governance, ethics approvals, and data security, the Chief Medical Officer for InPractice Systems, Dr Jon Behr, has agreed to support this extract. The extract will be undertaken on behalf of INPS and UK Biobank by Apollo Medical Software Solutions Ltd.

We plan to begin the linkage and data extraction process in about one month's time. This process will only involve patients registered in your practice if they have consented to participate in the UK Biobank study.

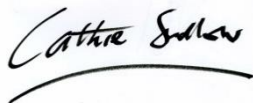
We would like to reassure you that:

- UK Biobank only releases anonymised data to approved researchers for the purpose of health-related research for the benefit of the public;
- no identifiable data for any health care professional are being requested;
- UK Biobank will provide its participants' identifiers (NHS number, date of birth and gender) to Apollo in an encrypted format and via secure transfer for the purpose of precisely matching to relevant records only;
- extracted data will be returned to UK Biobank in a similarly encrypted format and via secure transfer; and
- the linkage extract process will be undertaken by Apollo Medical Systems centrally and does not require any action on your part.

You can read more information about UK Biobank at: www.ukbiobank.ac.uk/general-practice.

If you have any questions or concerns about the proposed linkage then please do contact us at UK Biobank either by telephone on 0800 0 276 276, or by email to ukbiobank@ukbiobank.ac.uk.

Yours sincerely,



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