

Privacy Notice – Met Office research using NHS Digital data

This privacy statement should be read in addition to the Met Office [Privacy Policy](#), which provides more detail on how we process personal information we collect about you.

What data do we receive?

All the data we receive from NHS Digital are pseudonymised which means that we have no means of identifying an individual. We have data relating to Hospital Episode Statistics (HES). These data relate to all people who attended hospital as inpatients, outpatients and/or received critical care and who have attended Accident & Emergency departments. We do not have any information that could be used to identify individuals.

Where do we get data from?

The data are provided to the Met Office by NHS Digital, under a Data Sharing Agreement. The data originates from users of healthcare services and are provided in pseudonymised format which means that individuals are not identified in the data nor are they identifiable by the researchers who analyse the data.

What is our legal basis for processing your data?

Under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the Met Office has to identify a legal basis for processing personal information and an additional condition for processing special category data.

The Met Office processes personal information for research purposes under Article 6 (1)(e) of the GDPR: Processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest;

Special category data is processed under Article 9 (2)(j): Processing is necessary for archiving purposes in the public interest, or scientific and historical research purposes or statistical purposes and Article 9 (2)(i): Processing is necessary for reasons of public interest in the area of public health, such as protecting against serious cross-border threats to health or ensuring high standards of quality and safety of health care and of medicinal products or medical devices, on the basis of Union or Member State law which provides for suitable and specific measures to safeguard the rights and freedoms of the data subject, in particular professional secrecy;

How will we use your personal information?

The Met Office's purpose is to work at the forefront of weather and climate science for protection, prosperity and wellbeing. The processing of the data is necessary for the performance of our public task in the exercise of the official remit of the Met Office. To achieve this purpose, the Met Office's Health Programme exists to develop health forecasting services in order to mitigate the impact of weather on people's health and healthcare services, to continually evaluate the effectiveness of services in order to ensure they are benefiting both patients and healthcare professionals, and for ongoing research into the relationship between weather and health in order to develop new services in the future .

The scientific work of the Health Programme is shared between different project teams focusing on weather, climate and applied science to ensure the most appropriate expertise is accessed for this work in each case.

Only authorised employees of the Met Office will use the data provided by NHS Digital. Automated decision-profiling is not used for our research.

How will we keep your data secure?

The Met Office have implemented appropriate technical and organisational measures to protect personal information and special category data. Access to information is restricted to authorised employees of the Met Office. The data security arrangements at the Met Office form part of the Data Sharing Agreement with NHS Digital.

Will we identify you in any research outputs?

The data we hold does not allow us to identify individuals.

How long will we keep your data?

Data will be retained for the duration of the projects. Data will be destroyed safely in accordance with our agreement with NHS Digital.

What rights do you have in relation to your data?

For details on your rights, please see the Met Office [Privacy Policy](#).

As the data we receive from NHS Digital are pseudonymised, we have no means of identifying an individual. If you would like to opt out and not have your NHS data used for research of this nature, please contact NHS Digital: enquiries@nhsdigital.nhs.uk. Information about opting out can be obtained on their website: <https://digital.nhs.uk/services/national-data-opt-out-programme>.