

**HOW  
IS YOUR  
NHS DATA  
POWERING  
LIFE-CHANGING  
RESEARCH?**

Discover how your  
NHS health record  
is supporting medical  
breakthroughs.



Have your say  
on Improving  
Tomorrow's Health  
at [WessexSDE.nhs.uk](https://WessexSDE.nhs.uk)

# What is the Wessex SDE?

Imagine life-saving cancer treatments, faster diagnosis of rare diseases, or breakthroughs in managing long-term conditions – all powered by NHS data. The Wessex Secure Data Environment (SDE) will make this possible.

The SDE is a secure, NHS-owned and run platform that stores and links patient data for research. It is built to the highest standards for safety and security of NHS data.

## Why does it matter?

The Wessex SDE introduces a new system where approved researchers can only access de-identified data through a secure platform – rather than by data sharing. The NHS has full control. It makes research safer, protects your privacy, and speeds up research and discovery.

By linking different kinds of data together, researchers can ask bigger questions, look at more sides of a problem, and gain new insights to come up with new treatments and technologies. From personalised cancer treatments to cutting waiting times, the potential is life changing.

## Who's behind it?

The project is led by the University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust on behalf of the NHS in our region. You can find out more about our partners on the website.

# What does it mean for me?

Your patient health data includes any NHS records about your physical or mental health, collected during healthcare interactions or from medical devices and tests. Bringing this data together helps researchers make discoveries that improve health and care.

If you're happy with your information being used for research and planning, you do not need to do anything. If you prefer not to share your data, you can opt out at any time. To find out more about how your data is protected and your choices about how it is used, visit our website. Your choice will not affect your care.

## What are my choices?

If you are happy for your data to be used to support research, then you don't have to do anything. Donating your data ensures that researchers have more complete and representative information.

The NHS national data opt-out lets you choose if your NHS patient data is used for research and planning. Opting out will not affect your care. Find out more about your choices on our website or visit [www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters](http://www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters).

If you have any questions or want to get in touch, contact the Wessex SDE at [wessexsde@uhs.nhs.uk](mailto:wessexsde@uhs.nhs.uk), on 01281 205314, or by post at Wessex SDE, Executive Offices, Tremona Road, Southampton, SO16 6YD.

# We want you to get involved

We want to work together to agree how the Wessex SDE is run. Patients and members of the public from across Hampshire, the Isle of Wight and Dorset have already volunteered to be part of the decision making.

We want everyone to have their say – find out more and share your thoughts on our website.

A lot of people worry about their data, but they also recognise that research is going to provide options for treatment or even perhaps a cure. That matters more!

**John, Chandler's Ford**

I know from my own experience how many complicated health conditions there are and how few have simple solutions. More research is vital to tackling so many of them. The Wessex SDE promises not just to improve this research but to make it faster – giving us potential treatments and medicines sooner and saving lives.

**Lindsay, Poole**

**Have your say at  
WessexSDE.nhs.uk**

