

# Wessex Data Access Committee: Minutes

**Date:** Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025  
**Time:** 13:00-15:00  
**Location:** Virtual via TEAMS (meeting recorded for training and reflection)

**Chair:** Dr Rachel Chappell  
**Secretariat:** Rebecca Wood

**Present:**

Rachel Chappell (Chair) RC; Keith Gomes Pinto (NHS Dorset) KGP; Will Jennings (Associate Dean Research & Enterprise, UoS) WJ; Nicholas Fuggle (Associate Professor in Rheumatology, UoS) NMF; Patricia Fuller (Research Fellow, NIHR ARC Wessex) PF; Andy Taylor (DCF) AT; Sam Fortune (DCF) SF; Sandra Hall (DCF) SH; Mark Heffernan (Director of Operations, Wessex SDE: Presenter) MH; Michael George (Clinical Digital Research Fellow) MG; Rebecca Wood (Minutes) RW.

**Apologies:** Heather Case, John McBeth, Lindsay Anderson

	Item
1.	<p><b>Welcome and Administrative Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair welcomed attendees to the Wessex SDE Data Access Committee meeting.</li> <li>• Apologies acknowledged.</li> <li>• No declaration of interest raised.</li> <li>• Previous minutes (Paper A) agreed.</li> <li>• The committee agreed that minutes from these meetings will be published on the SDE website.</li> <li>• The Chair informed members that the DAC Committee's presence on the SDE website will go live shortly and when available, the link will be circulated. Members are invited to share and suggest changes.</li> <li>• The Chair provided a brief reminder of the DAC's social license</li> </ul> <p><b>Action 1:</b> The link to the DAC Committee's presence on the SDE website will be circulated to the committee when available.</p>
2.	<p><b>Study 1: ARC Labetalol vs Nicardipine</b></p> <p>MH Presented an overview of the study and shared slides.</p> <p>The study aims to evaluate two different blood pressure medications used in the ICU, with the goal of identifying the superior option for managing blood pressure, association of the use of medication with outcomes to the patient, and hospital impact regarding staffing and</p>

	<p>costs. No identifiable data will be used; all data will be sourced from UHS. The project does not have IRAS approval and will proceed under SDE REC approval.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statistical methodology and low number suppression.</li> <li>• The remit of the group in relation to research quality and output.</li> <li>• The committee’s role and the scope of REC approval.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action 2:</b> Include the End User Licence Agreement (EULA) in November’s pre-reads to explore the addition of conditions regarding case studies and low number suppression.</p> <p><b>Decision: Approved with recommendations (if the recommendations cannot be met, the study should return to the Wessex DAC): PI to take note of low number suppression, statical modelling and the use of potential case reviews down the line.</b></p>
<p>3.</p>	<p><b>Study 2: AMR Driver Project (Oxford)</b></p> <p>MH Presented an overview of the study and shared slides.</p> <p>The study aims to explore the use and potential overuse of antibiotics. The researcher will apply AI and machine learning models to review the clinical decision-making processes. Data analysis will be conducted by Oxford researchers using the Wessex SDE. No identifiable data will be used; all data will be sourced from UHS. The project does not have IRAS approval and will proceed under SDE REC approval.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The use of structured and un-structured data for this project.</li> <li>• Primary objective: to train and validate the AI model.</li> <li>• Consideration of outputs from large language models.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decision: Approved</b></p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><b>Comfort break</b></p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><b>Study 3: BRC GAP-S Sepsis Beyond NEWS2</b></p> <p>MH Presented an overview of the study and shared slides.</p> <p>This is a joint-funded initiative between SDE and BRC, involving a comparative analysis of consented perioperative data from UHS and Portsmouth Hospital. The aim is to develop a new risk score to identify potential sepsis cases.</p>

	<p>Both datasets will be pseudonymised by their respective administrative teams to check for duplication, given the geographical proximity of the hospitals. The study requires both REC and CAG approval.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarification was sought on the identification of NHS identifiable data.</li> <li>• A question was raised about the potential for future comparison between Southampton and Portsmouth. It was clarified that the primary aim is not comparative analysis, but the development of a predictive model.</li> <li>• It is expected that researchers adhere to the described methodology. Breaches of research behaviour would be raised via performance management routes.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decision: Approved</b></p>
6.	<p><b>Research Impact</b></p> <p>MH presented an overview and shared slides.</p> <p>Key Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research pipeline and activity: 74 studies in the pipeline and 11 live studies in the SDE.</li> <li>• First publication from Wessex SDE.</li> </ul>
7.	<p><b>Final Plenary Discussion: Conclusions and Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair thanked the committee for their attendance and contribution to discussions.</li> <li>• It was noted that the early slides outlining the remit of the committee will be re-circulated for reference.</li> <li>• The link to the DAC Committee's presence on the SDE website will be shared with the group.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action 3:</b> Slides outlining the remit of the committee will be circulated to the group.</p>
8.	<p><b>AOB</b></p>
9.	<p><b>Close of meeting</b></p>