NHS compliant data sharing now crucial for independent providers

NHS commissioners spend on private healthcare rose by 27% in 2020-21 to more than £18bn. With the establishment of Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) on 1st July this year there will be a greater scrutiny of this spend and its effectiveness.

Thousands of independent sector providers (ISPs) are already helping the NHS tackle the care backlog. And since the end of the pandemic, the overall share of care delivered by ISPs has grown from 12% to 16% of all NHS-funded planned treatments.

But, with the recent Data Saves Lives strategy, the push is to ensure data can be shared throughout the wider healthcare ecosystem. Reducing the backlogs and treating patients speedily in the best location is paramount, be that in acute trusts or independent hospitals, specialist GP groups, or community centres.

Increased demand means increased reporting. And, if private providers are to continue to service NHS contracts, they must comply with pressing demands for data sharing and detailed NHS reporting.

Insource provides operational data management and reporting expertise as managed services.

ICSs requesting full CDS reporting

With the establishment of Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) independent hospitals are already being asked to provide complex Commissioning Data Set (CDS) reporting – over and above any PHIN (Private Healthcare Information Network) submissions.

At Insource, our data management platform automates all CDS submissions and provides the operational data management and reporting expertise of larger organisations as a managed service. So medium or smaller organisations can deliver the same level of proficiency without the investment in technology or skilled manpower.

We take data from disparate source systems and the PAS/EPRs and combine it into a single, validated source of the truth. We then formulate this unified data into complex CDS data requirements, or any other reporting needs, and automate submissions. For those providers who are also delivering urgent care, our solution also extends to automating ECDS returns.

Consolidated data for performance management

This consolidated data isn't limited to just CDS information; any activity data and other information can be consolidated and available to the provider for internal performance, clinical and business management. Activity can be tracked in near real-time and Board or BI reports can be extracted against need – hourly, daily, weekly... without huge manpower demands on internal BI or performance teams. And waiting list management, with its single patient tracking list (PTL), can now be implemented to show patients needing urgent care or those with the longest waits.

Community services waiting lists growing exponentially

Whilst independent acute hospitals are already starting to feel this pressure as ICSs get underway, the community sector is not exempt. A recently leaked document showed that more than one million people are on an unpublished national waiting list for community services – this includes hundreds of thousands of children. And the overall list has increased by 35% in the last year.

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With 1,500 independent providers of community services registered with NHS England and the enormous pressure to release capacity in acute to bring down the backlogs, the spotlight has well and truly shifted to community.

Community providers to formally submit CSDS returns

ICSs have been created to enable collaboration across previously siloed organisations, funding flows and services. Large tranches of funding have historically gone into acute and in terms of activity reporting they are well served. But now the focus is on community.

NHS England has now formally requested that all larger community providers do Community Services Data Sets (CSDS) submissions. Also, a current NHSE urgent care project, supported by Insource, is enabling community providers to get urgent care data to the centre quickly to enable NHSE to analyse health population dynamics.

And the recent mandate from NHS England has insisted that all community providers complete the CSDS submissions themselves. For those using the EMIS community system, it has meant spending inordinate amounts of time doing searches on EMIS on KPI activity and downloading CSV files and formulating it into the CSDS format to do the monthly reports.

Insource automates KPI activity reports and full CSDS submissions

Insource gathers all patient-level activity data from multiple source systems across an independent GP Group or Community organisations and provides fully validated, automated KPI activity reports for submission to NHS Commissioners. Apart from these monthly reports, which track activity against contracted Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), Insource also do national Referral-to-Treatment (RTT) waiting list dataset (CSDS) reporting to the required national data quality standards.

Managed services for optimum use of in-house staff

As data management experts, Insource provide a range of managed services for private healthcare groups. With the increased demand for NHS reporting, independent organisations need to decide whether to maintain in-house data skills. Increasingly, they are choosing to leave complex data management to the experts and get on with their core business of clinical care – by engaging Insource as a trusted data partner.

With Insource you get access to – industry knowledge, solutions specialists, transformation specialists, information and performance experts, technical and data professionals – across the full life cycle of any project.

Full range of managed services

Data-as-a-Service (DaaS) – gives organisations clean, unified data that is standardised against NHS data dictionary formats and against local and national rules. This provides a single source of truth for all operational management, business decision making and local and national reporting.

Reporting-as-a-Service (RaaS) – We offer a broad catalogue of automated national returns, from extensive CDS (Commissioning Data Sets), ECDS, CSDS, and MHDS... to accurate RTT and non RTT waiting list reporting.

Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS) and Cloud Hosting - To support cloud deployments, we offer an Infrastructure Management Service coupled with our **Data-as-a-Service**. The combination of cloud deployment and infrastructure management saves time, reduces infrastructure and training costs, releases manpower, avoids system downtime.

Download our Managed Services datasheet **here**.

About Insource

At Insource we bring the power of data to your organisation. Our leading data management platform seamlessly delivers validated, patient-level activity data from across the enterprise through our range of waiting list management, statutory reporting, capacity planning and other applications to help organisations manage their healthcare business more effectively.

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