

Spine Glossary

Spine

A collection of national applications, services and directories that support the NHS in the exchange of information across national and local NHS systems, all sitting on the NHS National Network. Spine services include:

Access Control Framework. Access to data (held by the Personal Spine Information Service) is controlled by the Access Control Framework which registers and authenticates all users. It will provide a single log-in and a record of each healthcare professional accessing a patient's electronic care record. All information will be provided on a need-to-know basis and based on a user's role and 'legitimate relationship' with the patient. It will store details of those relationships between healthcare professionals and patients, as well as patient preferences on information sharing (e.g. whether certain sensitive information is restricted from routine sharing).

Personal Demographics Service (PDS). The central and single source for patient demographic information, such as NHS number, name, address, and date of birth. It can also contain a much wider range of information to allow for circumstances where a patient may be residing with a relative during recuperation, enabling important correspondence to be sent to the correct address.

Personal Spine Information Service (PSIS). The central database containing clinical records for each NHS patient. The Services include a health record service to store and provide information such as summary or status information, event-based information, and non-event related career documentation.

Secondary Uses Service (SUS). The Secondary Uses Service (SUS) is the single, comprehensive repository for healthcare data in England which enables a range of reporting and analyses to support the NHS in the delivery of healthcare services (performance monitoring, service planning, commissioning and clinical audit. It will also provide support to Payment by Results).

SUS is a data warehouse containing this patient-level information. Data can be clear (patient identifiable), anonymised or pseudonymised as required for the user's needs.

Spine Directory Service (SDS). Most people turn to a 'directory' to look for something – usually information. The Spine Directory Service is, in that respect, no different. Within the Spine, it is the main information source to find or check for something. It comprises the:

Spine User Directory (SUD) in which information about Spine users is held (e.g. name, role profile code, unique user identifier) and Spine Accredited Systems and Services, which ensure that transactions/messages are only processed from authorised users and systems. It is therefore a key component of the security of the Spine.

Transaction Messaging Service. The Transaction Messaging Service is a message transfer service to allow clinical messages from users of NHS computer systems and services to be securely routed to the service they are requesting and to manage the response to that request.

Depending on the type of message (e.g. relating to Choose and Book/ERS or the Personal Demographics Service), the Transaction Messaging Service identifies where the message needs to be sent.

The Summary Care Record (SCR). Provides emergency and out-of-hours healthcare professionals with faster access to key clinical information, including details of allergies, current prescriptions and bad reactions to medicines. The Summary Care Record helps to ensure continuity of care across a variety of care settings, and is provided by the Spine.