Communications toolkit on risk stratification

BSW ICB has produced the following communication toolkit to assist PCNs and practices in communicating with patients about Risk Stratification. This is the process practices in BSW use via the Eclipse system to identify and support patients with long-term conditions, prevent unplanned hospital admissions, reduce the risk of some diseases developing and improve patients' treatment.

This toolkit contains web copy, FAQs, social media posts, a poster and an updated privacy notice for your website and can be found below.

Story for practice websites and newsletters:

Health risk screening, risk stratification and you

Health risk screening and risk stratification is a process *(Enter practice/PCN name)* is using to help us:

- identify and support patients with long-term conditions.
- help prevent unplanned hospital admissions.
- reduce the risk of certain diseases developing
- Improve current treatment for patients, for example, when a new medication becomes available that may give better results.

We do this using a system called Eclipse. This system analyses information held in patients' medical records and uses this alongside information from other NHS services, such as hospitals, to produce a report that highlights patients who are most at risk or might benefit from changes to their care.

The report is then reviewed by a member of staff within the practice, such as a pharmacist, pharmacy technician or GP, to see what, if any, action needs to be taken.

A member of staff may contact you to discuss your care and may suggest an additional check such as a blood test, a medication review or other suitable intervention, to improve and protect your health.

Using this approach helps the wider health and care system in Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire to strategically support patients with long-term conditions, help prevent avoidable admissions to hospitals and plan for future health and care needs.

[You can watch a short film explaining how we use Eclipse here](#)

If you do not wish information about you to be included in our risk stratification programme, please contact *(add contact details).* We can add a code to your records that will stop your information from being used for this purpose. It should be noted that opting out may affect the care that we are able to offer you. Alternatively,

you can register with the NHS National Data Opt-out at:
https://digital.nhs.uk/services/national-data-opt-out

Privacy notice on risk stratification for practice and PCN website

How we use your information – Risk Stratification

This privacy notice explains why your GP Practice collects information about you for Risk Stratification, and how that information may be used.

As data controllers, GPs have fair processing responsibilities under the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). This means ensuring that your personal data is handled in a way that you would reasonably expect and giving you the opportunity to object.

Your GP is encouraged by NHS England, to use risk stratification tools as part of their local strategy to support patients with long-term conditions and to help and prevent avoidable admissions.

Risk stratification tools use various combinations of historic information about you held in the GP practice patient record, for example, age, gender, diagnoses and patterns of hospital attendance, admission and primary care data, and medication.

GPs use this information to identify (by NHS number) which of their patients are at risk and offer a preventative service to them. BaNES, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board (BSW ICB) uses this information to understand and plan for the local population's needs.

The ICB has contracted Prescribing Services Ltd to provide a risk stratification tool, known as Eclipse. Eclipse analyses the practice data in pseudonymised form (data fields that identify you are replaced by one or more artificial identifiers) to produce a risk score for each patient. GPs are then sent an amber or red alert to identify any patient who is potentially at high risk. The alerts are only made available to authorised clinicians (or administrators acting on behalf of the clinicians) with a care relationship with the patient.

This Eclipse portal allows only the GPs (or authorised clinicians) to view any alerts for each individual patient registered in their practice. They can then offer the patient direct care. This link provides a short video describing the Eclipse Risk Stratification tool: https://library.prescribingservices.org/dpia/Vista.mp4

Legal basis
The use of identifiable data by the ICB and GPs for risk stratification has been approved by the Secretary of State, through the Confidentiality Advisory Group of the

Health Research Authority (CAG) of the Health Research Authority giving a statutory legal basis under Section 251 of the NHS Act 2006 to process data for risk stratification purposes.

Click her for [further information about risk stratification](#).

If you would like further information about how your information is used by the GP Practice, please contact the practice manager, or view the Fair Processing Notice on the practice notice board or the practice website.

Poster

A poster for display on practice notice boards can be downloaded from *XXXXXX*

Social Media posts

Twitter:

Risk Stratification is a process GPs in BSW use to identify and support patients with long-term conditions, prevent un-planned hospital trips and reduce the risk of some diseases developing - read more about health risk screening and risk stratification

https://t.co/uU3OQACrZg

Facebook:

Health risk screening and risk stratification is a process **(Enter name)** is using to help us

- Identify and support patients with long-term conditions
- Prevent unplanned hospital admissions
- Reduce the risk of certain diseases developing
- Improve patient's current treatments, for example, when a new medication becomes available that may give better results

We do this through a system called Eclipse which analyses information held in patients' medical records which is used alongside information from other NHS services such as hospitals to produce a report which highlights patients who are most at risk or might benefit from changes to their care.

You can find out more about this at https://bswtogether.org.uk/health-risk-screening-risk-stratification-and-you/

FAQs, for use on practice websites

What is risk stratification?

Risk Stratification is a process GPs use to help them:

- identify and support patients with long-term conditions

- prevent un-planned hospital admissions

- reduce the risk of certain diseases developing

- Improve your current treatment, for example, when a new medication becomes available that may give better results

How does risk stratification work?

For GPs to undertake risk stratification, they use a system called Eclipse. This system analyses information held in your medical records and uses it alongside information from other NHS services, such as hospitals, to produce a report that highlights patients who are most at risk or might benefit from changes to their care.

The report is then reviewed by a member of staff within the practice, such as a pharmacist, pharmacy technician or GP, to see what, if any, action needs to be taken.

Will I be told if there is a change to my care due to risk stratification?

Yes. A member of staff may contact you to discuss your care and may suggest an additional check such as a blood test, a medication review or other suitable intervention, to improve and protect your health.

Do I have to be in my GP surgery with my GP while risk stratification happens and will it affect the length of any appointments I have?

No, risk stratification takes place outside of your GP appointment, so it doesn't affect the time you get with your GP.

What are the benefits of risk stratification?

The local health and care system across Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire use risk stratification tools as part of their local strategies for supporting patients with long-term conditions and to help prevent avoidable admissions to hospitals and plan for future health and care needs.

This link provides a short video describing how Eclipse is used https://library.prescribingservices.org/dpia/Vista.mp4

What data is used in risk stratification

Risk stratification tools use various combinations of historic information, for example, age, gender, diagnoses, hospital visits, hospital admission and primary care data collected in GP practice systems.

Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board will use pseudonymised versions of this information to understand the local population's needs, whereas GPs will be able to identify (by NHS number) which of their patients are at risk in order to offer a preventative service to them

What is pseudonymised data?

Pseudonymised data is information that has been modified to conceal or mask the identity of individuals, while still allowing some level of analysis or processing. Unlike anonymised data, which cannot be linked back to any individual, pseudonymised data retains the ability to be re-identified by using additional information held separately.

For example, instead of using a person's real name in a dataset, a pseudonym or unique identifier might be used. This identifier is not directly identifiable but can still be linked back to the individual if necessary, typically through a separate, secure process

Can I stop my GP and BSW ICBN from using my information?

If you do not wish information about you to be included in our risk stratification programme, please contact your GP Practice. They can add a code to your records that will stop your information from being used for this purpose. It should be noted that opting out may affect the care that we are able to offer you.

Are there other ways to opt out of having my information used?

Yes, you can also register with the NHS National Data Opt-out. It should be noted that opting out may affect the care that we are able to offer you