

**Care.data
Academy Council Statement**

- The Academy and individual medical Royal Colleges and Faculties have all expressed their strong support for the principles of the Care.data programme
- We believe that it can bring tangible benefits which will improve the health of individual patients
- However, the public and healthcare professionals must have confidence that the system provides the necessary privacy of individual patient information and sufficient protection against the misuse of data
- It was quite clear that there was not sufficient public and professional confidence in the proposals at the planned time of implementation and so it was right for the Government to delay implementation for a six month period
- The Academy wishes now to see progress on the effective implementation of proposals which can secure public and professional confidence
- The Academy does not therefore want to see further unnecessary delay imposed on the project at this stage
- Equally the Academy would support the view of the NHS England Chief Executive Simon Stevens to the Health Select Committee on 30 April that there should not be an “artificial” timescale for the project and that issues of concern are effectively addressed before the system is fully implemented
- The Academy supports the current proposals for a phased roll-out and to trial, test, evaluate and refine the programme and also for clear explanation of the benefits for patients
- We believe that specific issues which do need to be addressed before full implementation include:
 - Clarification of the “One strike and you are out” provision in cases of inadvertent rather than deliberate error
 - The definition and resourcing of “Safe Havens” for storage and use of data
 - The exclusion of personal identifiers
 - Effective links to the Patient Records Standards Board (PRSB) programme to define the content of patient records
 - Straightforward mechanisms for personal opt-out whilst retaining the fundamental principle of being an “opt-out” rather than an “opt-in” scheme

- The Academy believes that there must be a sustained programme, with the support of the medical profession, to explain the case to the public of the benefits of the Care.data programme
- Assuming that the points above are addressed and the pilot projects are successful, the Academy would want to see implementation of Care.data at a pace to start bringing benefits to patients as soon as possible.

6 May 2014