

Devon Local Medical Committee

Devon LMC: Advice on a Page

The Medical Interoperability Gateway (MIG)

The Northern and Eastern LMC Sub Committee has discussed the request from the NEW Devon CCG ICT Programme Lead/DELT Shared Services asking Practices to sign up to the **Medical Interoperability Gateway (MIG)**. After discussion we decided it would be useful to pass on the following advice to Practices:

Devon LMC supports the efforts being made by the CCG/DELT Shared Services to increase Data Sharing specifically to enable Clinical Practice (especially Out of Hours) to be safer, more efficient and more effective for both patients and GPs.

Devon LMC also recognises that the MIG has the potential (although is highly unlikely) to expose Practices, as Data Controllers, to legal challenge from the standpoint of the Data Protection Act.

Practices choosing to sign up to the MIG cannot fully protect themselves from this (theoretical) legal risk however they can reduce it by:

1. Publicising the MIG to their patients via their practice website, posters, leaflets and newsletters, and are highly encouraged to utilise a Fair Processing or Privacy Notice;
2. Ensuring patients who have previously requested removal (by opting out) from Data Sharing options continue to be coded accordingly;
3. Making pro-active choices to limit the organisations they allow to have this facility (e.g. Devon Doctors Ltd. and any other local organisations they trust).

The process being presented requires each Practice to open the Gateway as well as the patient giving fully informed Consent directly to the clinician at the time of the request to access their notes. (In the case of Devon Doctors telephone consultations this Consent will be recorded).

It is each individual Practice's decision as to whether they wish to join this scheme.

There are already large numbers of Practices in the UK who are using this system.

Dr Anthony O'Brien
Chair, Northern and Eastern LMC Sub Committee

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