What is the NHS digital, data and technology standards framework?

The NHS digital, data and technology standards framework, which is currently in draft format, describes the new expectations around the use of data, interoperability, and design standards within the NHS. This has an impact across all NHS organisations and within the supplier community to strive to achieve these more demanding standards. UKCloud always takes a proactive approach to data security and we have reviewed our services keeping in mind the new draft standards published by NHS Digital.

The framework outlines the key standards for the use of data, clinical safety, interoperability and design interactions:

Standards 1, 3, 4, 5	The use of data	- Patient records must use the unique patient identifier called the NHS number - Patient information stored electronically should comply with NHS clinical information standards - NHS Digital reference data registers are the reference data source in NHS systems - IT systems must be designed, developed and operated to conform with clinical safety standards
Standards 2, 6	Clinical safety	- Approved authentication systems - Compliance with Data Security Standards (DSS) through the Data Security and Protection Toolkit (DSPT)
Standards 7, 9	Interoperability	- Services support FHIR-based APIs to enable delivery of seamless care across organisational boundaries - Services should be operated with an enabling infrastructure supporting technical evolution, financial investment and resilience
Standards 8, 10	Design interactions	- Design of services in line with principles of Digital Service Standard and Technology Code of Practice - Services contracted for in accordance with the commercial standards

How should you be responding to the NHS digital, data and technology standards framework?

UKCloud Health has developed mature capabilities with its comprehensive framework addressing information security, data protection and governance. Alongside the requirements within, further information is available in our responses to Minimum Cyber Security Standard and the Data Security Protection Toolkit sections of this web page.

UKCloud Health only works with proven technology partners who have and can continue to demonstrate compliance with the NHS digital, data and technology standards framework. This makes UKCloud an ideal cloud services provider to host NHS workloads directly or in conjunction with an approved UKCloud partner, and we will actively work with customers to implement the right solution while adhering to these standards.

Standard	Description	How UKCloud Health can assist you	More information
1. **Patient records for all health and care settings must use the NHS Number wherever possible**	This information standard sets out the scope and use of the NHS Number, which is the unique identifier for a patient within the NHS in England and Wales.	*(Complying with this standard is the responsibility of NHS organisations)*	
2. **Logging in to NHS systems should be through an approved authentication system**	All NHS systems used by patients should check personal details using the NHS Login system.	UKCloud can provide user authentication solutions that have been approved by the NHS.	Contact UKCloud Health for further guidance and information.
3. **Patient information held in electronic health records should comply with NHS clinical information standards**	Clinical information standards define how a patient's information is recorded, shared and analysed so that every clinician, care provider, NHS organisation and arms-length body (ALB) can be confident in the fidelity of the information they see to the information provided by the treating clinician.	*(Complying with this standard is the responsibility of NHS organisations)*	

4. NHS Digital Reference Data Registers are the reference data source of choice in NHS systems	Registers are lists of information. They can also commonly be known as 'lookup' tables and are used to categorise data in databases, for example organisation codes or postcodes. In certain cases, registers underpin operational working, such as access control or, messaging. Each register is the most reliable list of its kind and represents the approved version of that data, typically managed and approved by a government department.	*(Complying with this standard is the responsibility of NHS organisations)*
5. All health software and health IT systems must be designed, developed and operated safely to conform with clinical safety standards	The design, development and operation of health apps, software and IT solutions should be safe.	*(Complying with this standard is the responsibility of NHS organisations)*
6. All NHS digital, data and technology services should achieve the Data Security Standards required through the Data Security and Protection Toolkit (DSPT)	All organisations that have access to NHS patient data and systems must use the toolkit to provide assurance that they are practicing good cyber security and publish their performance against the National Data Guardian's ten data security standards.	Customers who are authorised users of the NHS Digital DSPT website can search for UKCloud Ltd (8J561) to view our latest DSPT assessment online. This document is also available on request through our website. UKCloud Health only works with proven technology partners who can evidence a satisfactory completed DSPT. This makes UKCloud an ideal cloud services

		provider to host NHS workloads directly or in conjunction with an approved UKCloud partner, and work with customers to implement the right solution whilst adhering to these standards.	
7. All NHS digital, data and technology services should support Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) -based APIs to enable the delivery of seamless care across organisational boundaries	NHS organisations should plan to use agreed FHIR APIs so that they can deliver joined up care to their patients. Global Digital Exemplars and Local Health and Care Records are expected to implement these APIs.	UKCloud supports APIs that have been approved by the NHS including the FHIR APIs. It should be noted that the implementation of these APIs is the responsibility of application providers.	Contact us to find out more.
8. All NHS digital, data and technology services should be designed to meet user needs in line with the principles of the Digital Service Standard and Technology Code of Practice	NHS digital systems must be designed in accordance with the principles of the Government Digital Service (GDS) Digital Service Standard and the Technology Code of Practice.	UKCloud delivers choice and flexibility through safe and trusted cloud technologies, including VMware, Microsoft Azure, OpenStack, OpenShift and Oracle, in accordance with the principles of GDS and NHSX. Our platform is dedicated to UK Public Sector and health services which facilitates collaboration and joint working within government. As a true cloud provider, customers benefit from lower operating costs and access to a flexible cloud that scales based on user requirements. The platform is continually updated with features and updates meeting the	The power of cloud economics page on our website explains how cloud can help to create solutions that benefit from lower operating costs and increased flexibility. The multi-cloud experts brochure provides an overview of UKCloud and our multi-cloud services. Use cloud first provides information on the government's cloud first policy. See examples of UKCloud use cases. We comply with the following ISO standards:

ukcloud

		ever-increasing demands of the UK citizen.	• Information Security Management (ISO27001) • Security Controls for Cloud Services (ISO27017) • Personal Data in the Cloud Security (ISO27018)
9. NHS Services should be operated with an enabling infrastructure that supports technical evolution, financial investment and resilience	Infrastructure decisions should consider public cloud in adherence to the Government's Cloud First Policy. Such decisions should be underpinned through an understanding of the total cost of ownership of operating services for their full lifecycle including exit, together with maximising the benefits that cloud options can offer.	UKCloud has developed a true NIST defined public cloud, which consists of a range of technologies that offer a choice of solutions to better match customer requirements. Our public cloud offers best value for money, with customers paying only for what they use without being committed to CAPEX and minimum contracts. Customers can scale up or down on a self-serve on-demand basis ensuring that they only consume the minimum required resources at any given time to satisfy shrinking budgets. As we standardise on known technologies, such as VMWare and Microsoft Azure, there are no barriers to exiting the platform	UKCloud can offer cloud support for the design of services including blueprints and reference architectures. A range of transition services are available to help customers on the journey to achieve true cloud. These include; assessment, migration, optimisation and transformation. The cloud strategy can incorporate a mix of private, public and hybrid clouds to suit the customer's needs. UKCloud Pricing Guide - provides detailed information on pricing. Use our Pricing estimation tool to calculate the costs of using UKCloud. Sites, Regions and Zones – Knowledge Centre article explaining how customers can

		both from a financial and technical perspective. Our platform is constantly monitored in terms of security assurance and patching, and is regularly updated to ensure it offers the latest features and functionality. This is combined with the implementation of the platform over separate sites and regions offering customers the ability to design their workloads with the resilience and performance that they require.	design applications that are highly resilient. Monitoring the UKCloud platform - Knowledge Centre article, provides information on how we monitor our platform, including our security incident monitoring system that scans for potential security incidents 24 hours a day.
10. NHS digital, data and technology services should be contracted for in accordance with the commercial standards	It is intended that all NHS organisations, along with their suppliers, adopt and adhere to these Commercial standards when procuring, managing and delivering IT services and products. The aim is to help drive best practice and embed good working standards within IT contracts across the NHS.	UKCloud acknowledges and adheres to all Commercial and Behavioural Principles as mandated by NHS Digital. For example, our services are all listed on the major government frameworks with defined Service Definitions, Service Scopes, Terms and Conditions and call off contracts. All engagements with customers are conducted via a professional documented and standardised procurement process.	Commercial and Behaviour Principles – Information provided by NHS Digital on what the principles are and how the NHS expects suppliers and those procuring and managing their services to operate. Social Value page on our website describes our commitment to drive awareness across public sector on the benefits that can be realised through good IT decisions. The UKCloud Knowledge Centre provides access to our Service Definitions, Terms and Conditions and Pricing Guide.