

CVDPREVENT Privacy Information

About Arden & GEM Commissioning Support Unit

Arden & GEM Commissioning Support Unit (AGEM) provides a range of business intelligence, digital, and transformation services to support the NHS and wider health and care system. As part of NHS England, it works with commissioners and providers to help improve outcomes, value for money, and the effective delivery of health services.

AGEM's responsibilities include supporting the CVDPREVENT audit. CVDPREVENT is a national audit that looks at data from primary care services and uses it to show where improvements can be made to help improve the prevention and outcomes of people with cardiovascular disease. Patients with these conditions are more at risk of developing cardiovascular disease, which includes heart attack, heart failure and stroke, and many cases of dementia. The CVDPREVENT audit is part of a broader set of actions led by NHS England and outlined in the NHS Long Term Plan to prevent 150,000 strokes, heart attacks and cases of dementia over the next ten years.

This privacy notice explains the information we collect for this purpose and how we use it. It also explains how you can find out more or raise a concern.

What information is collected

If you are being treated for cardiovascular disease by your GP, you are asked to provide a range of personal information about yourself. The personal information collected by your GP includes:

- demographic information, including your name, date of birth, sex, ethnic group, address and NHS Number
- general health information, including information such as your height and weight, blood pressure, alcohol consumption, smoking habits, physical activity levels and other diseases
- information about your cardiovascular disease diagnosis, test results and the treatments you are receiving to manage your condition

Information about changes in your health and cardiovascular risk is collected at regular points by your GP as you progress through your treatment. This information is used by your GP to provide you with direct care.

A copy of this information is also extracted from your GP's records by the GPES team within NHS England. NHS England provides information and technology services to the health and care system. It is a public body reporting to the Department of Health and Social Care and collects and analyses data and information about health and care

services across England. The NHS England GPES team has been **instructed by NHS England** to collect this information from your GP for use for the CVDPREVENT audit.

The information shared with AGEM

The CVDPREVENT audit aims to help understand how effective the management of cardiovascular disease by GPs is in improving patient outcomes. To support this, information about cardiovascular disease patients is shared by NHS England for it to be analysed by AGEM.

The information shared with AGEM is in a de-personalised form and does not directly identify anyone being treated by their GP for cardiovascular disease. For example, your name, date of birth and address are not needed by AGEM so to protect your confidentiality this information is not shared with us by NHS England.

If you are being treated for cardiovascular disease by your GP, the information shared by NHS England with AGEM includes your:

- year of birth
- sex
- ethnic group
- area of residence (using the code for the lower layer super output area where you live rather than your postcode)
- information about your diagnosis and treatment for cardiovascular disease and six high-risk related conditions, including atrial fibrillation, diabetes, high blood pressure, non-diabetic hyperglycaemia (sometimes known as pre-diabetes), high cholesterol and chronic kidney disease

No information that directly identifies you is shared with AGEM.

How the information is used by AGEM

The de-personalised information shared with AGEM is used to understand how many people in England have cardiovascular disease and related high-risk conditions, and which populations are most affected. The results of this work will help the NHS understand how often these conditions occur. It will also highlight where there are differences in the numbers of people with cardiovascular disease and differences in the treatments they receive. These results of these analyses will help doctors and other professionals make improvements in the prevention and care of cardiovascular disease to help reduce the number of heart attacks and strokes that happen.

The de-personal information shared with AGEM is used to produce a range of statistics that will be published in a CVDPREVENT audit report and shared with NHS England

and other NHS organisations. No information that could identify any individual will be included in this or any other report published by AGEM for the CVDPREVENT audit.

How is the information protected

The information shared with AGEM for CVDPREVENT is protected in several ways.

It is sent to AGEM by NHS England using a secure data transfer service and is held on computer systems that have been tested to make sure they are secure and kept up-to-date to protect them from viruses and hacking.

The information can only be seen by AGEM staff who have been specifically trained to protect people's privacy. Strong controls are in place to make sure these staff can only see the minimum amount of information they need to do their job.

The information is held in the UK only and no information that could identify you will ever be published by AGEM.

How long is the information kept

The de-personalised information shared with AGEM for the CVDPREVENT audit is kept for 5 years. This is the usual retention period set out in the [Records Management Code of Practice for Health and Social Care 2021](#) for information used for audits of the treatment and care provided by the NHS.

Data controllers

The Department Health and Social Care is the data controller for the personal information collected and used by AGEM for the purposes of supporting the CVDPREVENT audit.

NHS England is the data controller for the data it obtains from GPs for the purposes of the CVDPREVENT audit.

Your GP Practice is the data controller for the information your GP collects about the treatment and care they provide to you. You can find out more on your GP Practice's website or by speaking to your GP.

Legal basis for AGEM to use the information

The law on protecting personal information, known as the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018, allows AGEM to use de-personalised information for the CVDPREVENT audit.

The sections of the UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act that apply here are:

- UK GDPR article 6(1)(e) 'processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller'
- UK GDPR article 9(2)(i) 'processing is necessary for reasons of public interest in the area of public health, such as protecting against serious cross-border threats to health or ensuring high standards of quality and safety of healthcare'
- Data Protection Act 2018 schedule 1 part 1 (3) - public health

Your rights over your information

Under data protection law, you have a range of rights over your personal information, such as the right to receive a copy of your personal information.

However, as the information shared by NHS England for the purposes of the CVDPREVENT audit is de-personalised, this means AGEM cannot identify you from the information it receives. This in turn means that we cannot provide you with a copy of your personal information as we cannot identify you from the information we hold.

Should you wish to exercise any of your rights, such as the right to receive a copy of the personal information about you which NHS England collects from your GP, please contact NHS England. You can find [further information on the NHS England website](#) or by contacting the NHS England customer service centre on 0300 303 5678.

Opting out of your personal information being used for CVDPREVENT

If you do not want your personal information to be collected by NHS England from your GP practice to be used for planning or research purposes such as the CVDPREVENT audit, you can opt out.

Further information and details on how to [register your opt-out choice](#) can be found on the NHS England website. On this webpage you will:

- see what is meant by confidential patient information
- find examples of when confidential information is used for individual care and examples of when it is used for purposes beyond individual care
- find out more about the benefits of sharing data
- be able to access the system to view, set or change your opt-out setting
- see the situations where the opt-out will not apply

NHS England will not share your personal information with researchers if you register a choice to opt out.

How to find out more or raise a concern

If you would like to find out more about CVDPREVENT, you can contact us at

If you have any concerns about how your information is used and protected, you can contact the AGEM Data Protection Officer at agem.dpo@nhs.net or in writing to:

Cardinal Square
Ground Floor South
10 Nottingham Road
Derby
DE13QT

You also have the right to contact the Information Commissioner's Office if you have any concerns about how AGEM uses and protects your information. You can do so by calling the ICO's helpline on 0303 123 1113 or visiting the ICO's website at www.ico.org.uk.