

Your right to opt out

Although we believe that the net impact of risk stratification on privacy is marginal and the benefits great, you have an autonomous choice about whether you want your information to be used for risk stratification purposes. If you are happy with this use of your data you do not need to do anything.

If you do not wish your confidential patient information to be included in risk stratification you can choose to opt-out through the National Data Opt Out process by visiting <https://www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters/>.

You can also contact your GP Practice Management Team to discuss how disclosure of your data for risk stratification can be limited.

Opting out will not affect the care you receive, but it could affect the pro-active provision of your care. You can change your mind about your choice(s) at any time.



More information and contact details

For more information about risk stratification, opting out, and your information rights, please refer to the Integrated Care Board's Privacy Notice, and/or webpage on risk stratification

Any generic questions about the use of your data by the Integrated Care Board may be directed to:
lscicb.contactus@nhs.net

Please contact the Integrated Care Board via their Data Protection Officer if you have any questions about the content of this leaflet, the information we hold about you, or any data protection or privacy concerns you may have: Data Protection Officer, Tel: 01782 916875, Email: mlcsu.dpo@nhs.net



**Lancashire and
South Cumbria**
Integrated Care Board



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**Risk stratification -
How it can help
improve health
services**

What is risk stratification?

Risk stratification uses data to better understand, plan, and manage the current and future health needs of our local patient population.

The process of collecting, analysing and using data is called risk stratification. The data is run through a computer-based programme, often referred to as a risk stratification tool, that assigns 'risk scores' to patients. No patients can be identified from the risk scores. The tool calculates which people are at high risk of experiencing certain outcomes, such as unplanned emergency care.

It can also help identify and support patients with long term conditions, and reduce the risk of certain diseases developing such as Type 2 Diabetes.

Clinical staff are able to re-identify individuals from the data and match it back to individual patients in their care so that they can consider their healthcare needs. Integrated Care Board staff on the other hand can never identify an individual from the risk stratified data.



How does it work?

NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board and your GP Surgery use patient data for two types of risk stratification:

- 1. Risk stratification for case finding.**
The risk stratification tool 'finds' registered patients most at risk. GPs use the case-finding method to prevent health issues, to prevent unexpected hospital visits, and to help identify and support patients with long term conditions.
- 2. Risk stratification for commissioning.**
The risk stratification tool analyses a population's data to predict future care needs. The Integrated Care Board uses this method so they can plan and commission the right services based on local health care needs identified from analysed anonymous data.



What data is used?

Risk stratification tools use information about patients, such as age, gender, diagnoses and patterns of hospital attendance and admission. This information is collected by NHS England from NHS hospitals and community care services. This is linked to data collected in GP practices, any information that could identify patients is removed and then analysed within risk stratification tools to produce a risk score.

Integrated Care Board staff do not have access to Personal Confidential Data as part of the risk stratification process.

The risk score is made available to GPs who can match it back up with the personal data of their patients. This enables them to identify which patients should be offered targeted preventative support to reduce risks and provide personalised health care to you.

