

Secure Data Environment: What it means for GP practices

The way patient information is accessed to support research and the planning of health and care services, is changing.



What is a Secure Data Environment (SDE)?

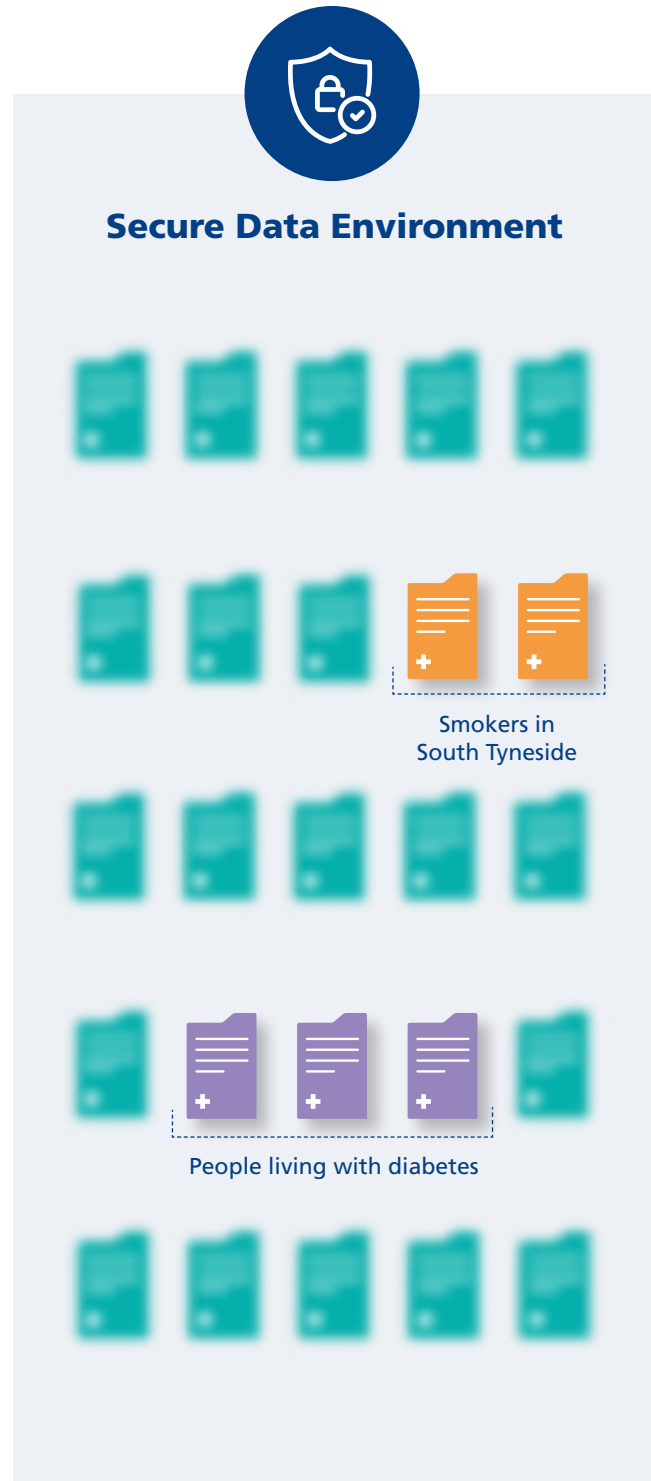
An SDE is a cloud-based platform that lets researchers and analysts securely access health and care data for specific projects. Access to the data is tightly controlled and only the findings can be removed, not patient-level data.

Examples

An approved healthcare planner would like to know smoking rates in South Tyneside



An approved researcher would like to know whether treatment A or treatment B works better for patients with diabetes



Key points



Data liability

ICB is responsible for data once it moves to the SDE.



Less burden on GPs

Data access requests are managed centrally at the ICB level, reducing the burden on GP time.



Current research revenue

We expect the SDE will not take away existing revenue for research and cohort discovery. The SDE will also create new research opportunities which could lead to new income streams.



Patient data sharing starts soon

Patient data from North East and North Cumbria trusts will begin to flow in early 2025.



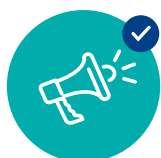
Move from data sharing to access

SDEs focus on secure data access rather than traditional data sharing for research and planning. This means the data always stays in the NHS on the NECS platform.



Opt-Outs

Local opt outs managed centrally by SDE team, with National Data Opt Out applied.



Public awareness campaign

A campaign to inform the public will launch in 2025. GP practices will receive communication toolkits, including digital and printed materials.



Public involvement

Dedicated public group involved and embedded in programme oversight.

More info

If you would like to speak to the SDE team to find out more, email us at nencicb.sde@nhs.net or visit our website at: [GPs | North East and North Cumbria NHS](#)



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