



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

Using data to tackle inequalities of access

Empowering to deliver together

Inequalities in screening

The problem:

Many people who may benefit from screening are unable to access it due to simple barriers such as receiving leaflets in the wrong language. PHE has a duty to address these inequalities based on protected characteristics and works hard to minimise them where possible.

Our aim:

To identify people who can benefit from changes to the way we provide information and services and to provide those in a way they can be used.

Inequalities in screening

The challenge:

Information on people's health, ethnicity and language is all held with a duty of confidentiality by the NHS services. So we need special permission to access it.

Some things, like learning disabilities which impair reading abilities, are not easily coded for in medical records as they have a wide range of diagnoses.

The solution:

A patient determined flag in records that explains what they need and that they want it used.

Legal permission to share that with screening so we can use the data for quality assurance and evaluation.

Inequalities in screening

The next steps:

- Establish user acceptability and how this data would be integrated into the screening pathway
- Work with NHSD on
 - Access to flag data
 - Integration with new screening call recall systems
 - Integration with existing call recall systems
- Get S251 support for screening QA and evidence to access the data for QA and inequalities evaluation