

Consent to PHE NDTMS

The following words are to be used by all treatment providers in written or oral form for the purposes of gathering consent from individual clients to share some treatment data with Public Health England (PHE).

What NDTMS is and does: NDTMS is the National Drug and alcohol Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS). It is used by PHE to collect information about drug and alcohol treatment in England. If you consent, your treatment service will share some of your treatment information with NDTMS.

What information NDTMS uses and why: PHE collects some personal information about people in treatment including your initials, date of birth, gender, the local authority area in which they live and the first part of your postcode. This reduces the risk of you being counted twice. This information is only shared with PHE if the people using treatment services agree and PHE never contact service users:

- your full name and address are NOT passed on to PHE
- no identifiable information held on NDTMS is passed on to the police or any other organisation
- your information is held on NDTMS to support ongoing trend and other research analysis¹

The information is used to understand how many people are using these treatment services, how good the services are at helping people with substance misuse issues, to help improve them and produce statistics and research about drug and alcohol use and treatment. PHE never publish NDTMS information that could be used to identify individuals.

How NDTMS will protect your information: the security of the data you provide to NDTMS is of utmost importance and PHE staff are bound by law to protect the confidentiality of the information they collect and use. The personal information held is kept to a minimum and PHE makes sure that staff can only see the information that is required to do their job.

Sharing and linkage of NDTMS information: some information from NDTMS is cross referenced with data from other government departments and reports are sent back to them so that they can monitor the effectiveness of the national drug and alcohol strategies. Any data matching with other government departments is undertaken by PHE. At no point is your personal information shared with the police or any other organisation. In addition, sometimes you may be seen by more than one agency and to assist with treatment outcomes profiles (TOP), NDTMS may share TOP information about you between the agencies from which you may have received treatment.

Withdrawal of consent: if you do not want information about you to be passed on to NDTMS then you have the right to say this and/or ask for your treatment information at your current service to be removed. This will not have any impact on the treatment you receive. You can ask your service or your keyworker for a copy of the NDTMS patient information leaflet for more information.

I consent to share my data with PHE NDTMS for the purposes set out above.

Service user name:

Service user signature:

Date:

¹ www.gov.uk/government/publications/confidentiality-guidance-for-drug-and-alcohol-treatment-providers-and-clients