

THE NATIONAL CONFIDENTIAL INQUIRY INTO SUICIDE AND SAFETY IN MENTAL HEALTH (NCISH)

EXEMPTION FROM APPLYING THE NATIONAL DATA OPT-OUT

The National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Safety in Mental Health (NCISH) has been recommended exemption from applying the [National Data Opt-Out](#) to the data we collect. This means that information about patients and care received from mental health services can be collected by our study even where people have chosen *not* to have their health data shared for reasons other than individual treatment and care. We have been recommended this exemption by the Confidentiality Advisory Group (CAG) at the Health Research Authority (HRA), an independent body who provide expert advice on the use of confidential patient information.

CAG have decided it is *in the public interest* for NCISH to continue to collect patient data even when someone has opted out of sharing their health records. This is because we were set up with the overall aim of improving safety for all mental health patients. To do so, we must examine the deaths by suicide of all people under the recent care of specialist mental health services. Learning can then feed into improvements in the quality and safety of care offered by services. It is in the interest of patients and the public for this work to continue.

NCISH makes every effort to ensure our standards are high in handling specialist categories information as part of our patient safety research. To find out more about how we use the specialist categories information that we collect, and the rights that you have if you think that we hold information about you as a data subject click [here](#).