



Department
of Health &
Social Care

Privacy Notice Heart Age Calculator

Published [May 2024]

Summary of Initiative/Policy

Heart Age test

Why and how we process your data in the Heart Age test online tool and your rights.

The 'Calculate your heart age' tool can help you find out how healthy your heart is and processes your input data to pseudonymise it. This means it replaces or removes information that identifies you as an individual. For example, it converts your postcode into a wider geographical area.

NHS England stores this pseudonymised data. The purpose of storing it is to help NHS England improve the tool and test that it is working.

NHS England also provide a copy to the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC), who process it for statistical analysis and to measure the effectiveness of their health campaigns.

Data Controller

Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) is the data controller

Where does the data come from

The data comes from users of NHS England Heart Age test online tool

<https://www.nhs.uk/health-assessment-tools/calculate-your-heart-age>

What personal data we collect

Users of the Heart Age test enter their postcodes, as those are needed for the heart age calculation. NHS England does not retain this information, just the resulting calculated heart age. In dataset passed on to DHSC, postcodes have been converted into codes for wider geographical areas (Lower Super Output Area or LSOA).

Other information collected about the users are age, gender, ethnicity, height, weight, smoking status, cholesterol and blood pressure readings, LSOA codes, as well as medical history including presence or not or not of cardiovascular disease (CVD), family CVD background, diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, kidney disease, atrial fibrillation smoking status.

How we use your data (purposes)

The data comes from users of NHS England Heart Age test online tool.

The data is collected to:

- evaluate whether the Heart Age tool is reaching equitably people from different backgrounds
- evaluate whether the Heart Age tool is achieving the intended aims of raising awareness on cardiovascular disease risks and supporting people to get a health check
- provide Heart Age tool developers with ways to improve access to it and tailor the advice being provided to the users.

Legal basis for processing personal data

Under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the lawful bases we rely on for processing this information are: [delete as appropriate]

GDPR Article 6 (1e) – Public task - processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller

The condition for processing special categories of personal data:

GDPR Article 9(2)(h) - the management of health and social care systems and services, supplemented by DPA 2018, Schedule 1, Part 1, paragraph 2 - health or social care purposes

Data Processors and other recipients of personal data

NHS England act as the Data Processor, they collect the data and provide it to DHSC. DHSC are the Data Controllers.

No other parties have access to the data.

DHSC do not disclose the data, only aggregated, anonymised data are shared as a part of reports produced from data analysis. In all reports, counts less than 7 are suppressed.

International data transfers and storage location(s)

The data is stored in the UK

The data is not transferred to any third parties.

Retention and disposal policy

NHS England, the data processor, retains the pseudonymised data for 2 years. DHSC, the data controllers, retains the pseudonymised data for 8 years. This is to allow evaluation of the changes made to the online tool over the years.

How we keep your data secure

Data is stored by DHSC either within a dedicated SQL Server 2017 database hosted on DHSC/ internal servers, or a dedicated network share; both of which are DHSC/ approved to store person level data.

No backups, data or file shares are saved on public cloud servers. All processes are tightly controlled and governed by DHSC backup policy.

Your rights as a data subject

By law, data subjects have a number of rights and this processing does not take away or reduce these rights under the EU General Data Protection Regulation (2016/679) and the UK Data Protection Act 2018 applies.

These rights are:

1. The right to get copies of information – individuals have the right to ask for a copy of any information about them that is used.
2. The right to get information corrected – individuals have the right to ask for any information held about them that they think is inaccurate, to be corrected
3. The right to limit how the information is used – individuals have the right to ask for any of the information held about them to be restricted, for example, if they think inaccurate information is being used.
4. The right to object to the information being used – individuals can ask for any information held about them to not be used. However, this is not an absolute right, and continued use of the information may be necessary, with individuals being advised if this is the case.
5. The right to get information deleted – this is not an absolute right, and continued use of the information may be necessary, with individuals being advised if this is the case.

Is the data subject to decisions made solely by computers? (automated decision making) =
No

Comments or complaints

Anyone unhappy or wishing to complain about how personal data is used as part of this programme, should contact data_protection@dhsc.gov.uk in the first instance or write to:

Data Protection Officer
1st Floor North
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

Anyone who is still not satisfied can complain to the Information Commissioners Office.

Their website address is www.ico.org.uk and their postal address is:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow

Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Automated decision making or profiling

No decision will be made about individuals solely based on automated decision making (where a decision is taken about them using an electronic system without human involvement) which has a significant impact on them.

Changes to this policy

This privacy notice is kept under regular review, and new versions will be available on our privacy notice page on our website. This privacy notice was last updated on xxxx

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Information Risk Management & Assurance/Office of the Data Protection Officer

www.gov.uk/dhsc

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