

EHDS UNPACKED

A major change is coming to how health data is governed across Europe. Join Understanding Patient Data for EHDS Unpacked to understand what the European Health Data Space (EHDS) is, why it matters internationally, and what it means for the UK.

Background

The EHDS is set to transform how health data is accessed and used across Europe.

It aims to make it safer, simpler and more consistent to use health data across EU countries – for the care of individuals, research, and improved policy making. Even though the UK isn't in the EU, this still matters. Standards set in Europe often shape global expectations – from how data is shared to what “good” transparency and trust practices look like.

Understanding Patient Data is offering a two-part webinar series to cut through the complexity and explain:

- What the EHDS actually is and why it's a big deal
- What it means for people, researchers and health systems in the UK
- How global shifts – including AI – make understanding the EHDS essential
- Where the major opportunities lie, from trusted research environments to cross-border collaboration

If you care about patient data, public trust, research, innovation or policy, [register here](#) to get ahead of the curve.

Find out more about the European Health Data Space and what is coming up [here](#).

EHDS Unpacked Part One: What Europe's health data future means for the UK

1pm - 3pm GMT, 23 April 2026

The first of two sessions will give attendees a structured and accessible introduction to the EHDS. Delivered through an impressive line-up of UK experts, the session will explain why the EHDS matters for the UK, and what new standards, expectations, and cross-border research requirements are emerging from Europe. It will explore real-world implications, from what it means for people, researchers and health systems in the UK to how global shifts – including AI – make understanding the EHDS essential.

1:00

Welcome & opening remarks

Anna Steere, Head of Understanding Patient Data

1:05

Keynote: "Opening the door to Europe's health data future"

Professor Andrew Morris, Director of HDR UK, and Tim Hubbard, Director of ELIXIR

1:25

How the EHDS was born: The journey so far

Dr. Petra Wilson, Managing Director of Health Connect Partners

1:40

Designing a connected Europe: Policy & infrastructure in practice

John Meredith, Interoperability Specialist at the Digital Health Excellence Centre

1:55

How the EHDS supercharges research and AI innovation

Dr. Claire Bloomfield, Principal for data and technology partnerships at Isomorphic Labs

2:10

EHDS Unpacked: Live Q&A

Lucy Seymour, Policy and Communications Manager, Understanding Patient Data

2:45

Thanks & close

Anna Steere, Head of Understanding Patient Data

EHDS Unpacked Part One: What Europe's health data future means for the UK

Speakers

Professor Andrew Morris, Director of HDR UK



Andrew Morris is the inaugural Director of [Health Data Research UK](#). He is Professor of Medicine, and Vice Principal of Data Science at the University of Edinburgh, and an honorary consultant physician in NHS Lothian. Professor Morris was elected as the President of the Academy of Medical Sciences in April 2024. In early 2025, Andrew joined the Board of Trustees at the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), Singapore's lead public sector research and development agency.

Tim Hubbard, Director of ELIXIR



Tim Hubbard became Director of [ELIXIR](#) in 2024, a distributed European research infrastructure for life-science data. Alongside this role, Tim is also Professor of Bioinformatics at Kings College London and holds memberships with the Science Advisory Committee for Genomics England and Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Genomics, established by the World Health Organisation. Tim's previous work as Head of Genome Analysis at Genomics England is highly regarded, having been set up by the Department of Health to execute the 100,000 genomes project.

Dr. Petra Wilson, Managing Director of Health Connect Partners



Petra Wilson is a digital health expert with over 30 years' experience spanning law, policy, industry, and academia. She is Managing Director of [Health Connect Partners](#), a boutique consultancy specialising in digital health law and policy. Through her consultancy, Petra collaborates with leading organisations including the Institute for Innovation through Health Data, focusing on AI in healthcare and data interoperability. She also advises the European Commission on cross-border mental health service delivery and serves as a facilitator for the World Health Organization's public-private partnership in digital health.

John Meredith, Interoperability Specialist at the Digital Health Excellence Centre



John Meredith is an Interoperability Specialist in [EY's Global Digital Health Center of Excellence](#), focussing on standards-based digital health architecture, interoperability, and data and terminology modelling. He has 20+ years' experience across public and private sector health and care, with a track record spanning open platforms, digital care records, and the practical implementation of semantic interoperability using openEHR, HL7 FHIR and SNOMED CT. He has worked on national deployment programmes of open health platforms and has a proven track record delivering standards-based digital architecture programmes at local and national scale. He brings a particular interest in how semantic interoperability frameworks and clinical vocabularies enable adoption at market level. Alongside his role at EY, John is a Director at openEHR International.

Dr. Claire Bloomfield, Principal for data and technology partnerships at Isomorphic Labs



Claire Bloomfield is a senior life sciences leader with extensive expertise in real-world data and AI. She is passionate about leveraging collaborative approaches across public, private, and third sectors to build robust health data infrastructure and instigate transformational change for patient and public benefit. As Principal for data and technology partnerships at [Isomorphic Labs](#), Claire is at the forefront of forging innovative data and technology partnerships to advance AI-driven drug discovery.

EHDS Unpacked Part Two: Global lessons for building a trusted health data space

10am - 12pm GMT, 12 May 2026

The second EHDS Unpacked webinar will share real examples from countries transforming their use of health data and preparing for the EHDS. We'll explore what their experiences can teach the UK – from building public confidence to working across borders and managing practical and cultural challenges. International colleagues directly involved in this work will outline the steps they're taking, the challenges they face, and what helps them progress, offering insights to support the UK and other non-EU countries with long-term planning.

10:00

Welcome & opening remarks

Anna Steere, Head of Understanding Patient Data

10:05

Keynote: "Europe's blueprint for the EHDS: Unlocking paths for collaboration"

Prof. Dr. Henrique Martins, leading European authority on digital health-system transformation, and former CMIO for Portugal

10:25

Lessons from Australia: Overcoming cultural barriers

Dr Ilan Mears, Program Manager, Australian Research Data Commons

10:40

Lessons from Norway: The map that helps us navigate health data

Zuzanna Nordeng, Senior Adviser - Metadata Manager at the Norwegian Public Health Institute (FHI)

10:55

Lessons from Canada: Public views on trust & acceptable health data use

Catherine Street, Public Engagement Executive Lead, Health Data Research Network Canada

11:10

EHDS Unpacked: Live Q&A

Lucy Seymour, Policy and Communications Manager, Understanding Patient Data

11:45

Thanks & close

Anna Steere, Head of Understanding Patient Data

EHDS Unpacked Part Two: Global lessons for building a trusted health data space

Speakers

Prof. Dr. Henrique Martins, leading European authority on digital health-system transformation, and former CMIO for Portugal



[Henrique Martins](#), MD, PhD, MLaw, FIAHSI, is Internal Medicine doctor, and he was the first CMIOs in Portugal; president of SPMS, Portugal's Digital Health Agency for close to 7 years and former Member States co-chair of the EU eHealth Network, the highest policy body on eHealth in the Union. Between 2020-2024 he was part of the HL7 Europe Foundation Board of Directors. He works as an academic teaching and researching in Digital Health, Healthcare Systems and Transformation, and Leadership and Management education for Medical Students and Health Professionals. He is engaged in individual consulting projects in Healthcare Transformation and Digital Health and as Senior Consultant in Digital Health and Innovation for the WHO.

Dr Ilan Mears, Program Manager for Australian Research Data Commons



At [ARDC](#), Ilan Mears is coordinating the delivery of national research data infrastructure programs to serve Australia's health and medical research sector, including ARDC's flagship [Australian Health Data Evidence Network](#) - a collaborative initiative to make Australian hospital medical records research-ready by leveraging the OMOP Common Data Model. Ilan has worked in the Australian research sector for over 20 years and is passionate about harnessing data to solve society's most pressing problems. Ilan holds a PhD in Neuroscience and prior to her role at ARDC, she held leadership roles in both health and physical science research strategy and operations.

Zuzanna Nordeng, Senior Adviser - Meta Data Manager at the Norwegian Public Health Institute



Zuzanna Nordeng works as a Metadata manager at [Norwegian Public Health Institute](#) (FHI), overseeing the full metadata value chain, collaborating across Norway and Europe on EU projects for secondary use of health data and AI medical devices. She is a trained health economist and sociologist, with expertise in health policy implementation, evaluation, and European public finance systems.

Catherine Street, Public Engagement Executive Lead, Health Data Research Network Canada



Catherine Street began her career with the NHS in England, working as a clinical pharmacist and health service manager. Following a move to Canada she started work at Memorial University, Newfoundland and Labrador. In 2014 she accepted the role of Director of the Newfoundland and Labrador, SUPPORT Unit funded through the Canadian Institute of Health Research's Strategy for Patient Oriented Research Initiative. She joined the Executive of the [Health Data Research Network \(HDRN\) Canada](#) in 2022 as the Public Engagement Executive lead. Throughout her time with NL SUPPORT and HDRN Canada she has gained significant experience of patient and public engagement in research and understands the immense value that patients and the public can bring to research.

Get involved

There are plenty of opportunities to get involved in our work on the EHDS. We're keen to hear from people across health, research, policy and patient communities who want to share insights or highlight areas of interest as the EHDS develops. Your perspectives help ensure our work reflects real experiences and public expectations.

You can also stay connected by [signing up for updates on our latest outputs, events and opportunities to contribute](#). Whether you're looking to follow developments, offer expertise or participate more actively, we welcome your interest as we continue exploring what the EHDS means for people and the health system.



Our funder

The EHDS is set to transform how health data is accessed and used across Europe, creating safer, simpler and more consistent standards for care, research and policymaking. Although the UK is no longer in the EU, these changes still matter – and

Understanding Patient Data is incredibly grateful to [Wellcome Trust](#)'s funding, in helping UK organisations engage early with the EHDS. As Martin Smith, Head of Policy Lab at Wellcome Trust, shares below, understanding the EHDS is crucial for UK-EU health data collaboration.

“We're excited to support UPD as they help UK stakeholders engage with the development of the European Health Data Space. Understanding and shaping EHDS now will create opportunities for UK-EU collaboration on health data, making research more efficient and impactful across the UK and Europe.”

Martin Smith, Head of Policy Lab, Wellcome Trust