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29 April 2026

Nicola Johnson, Principal Researcher
Research Team
Data and Insight
Care Quality Commission
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Dear Nicola Johnson,

Application title: 2026 Children and Young People's Patient Experience Survey
CAG reference: 26/CAG/0042

Thank you for submitting a **non-research** application under Regulation 5 of the Health Service (Control of Patient Information) Regulations 2002 ('section 251 support') to process confidential patient information without consent.

This application was considered at the precedent set Confidentiality Advisory Group (CAG) meeting held on 10 April 2026, under category 11. Applications to administer patient surveys made by organisations on behalf of Care Quality Commission (CQC). This outcome should be read in conjunction the [minutes](#) of this meeting.

Confidentiality Advisory Group advice and Secretary of State for Health and Social Care decision

The CAG agreed that the minimum criteria under the Regulations appeared to have been met, and therefore advised recommending support to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.

The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, having considered the advice from the Confidentiality Advisory Group as set out in the minutes, has determined the following:

- The application is **fully supported**, subject to compliance with the [standard conditions of support](#).

Please note that the legal basis to allow access to the specified confidential patient information without consent is now in effect. A summary of the scope of support is provided in Appendix A.

Support provides a lawful basis to allow the information to be processed by the relevant parties for the specified purposes without incurring a breach of the common law duty of confidence only. Applicants must ensure the activity remains fully compliant with all other relevant legislation.

Specific conditions of support

1. Confirmation provided from the DSPT Team at NHS England to the CAG that the relevant [Data Security and Protection Toolkit \(DSPT\)](#) submission(s) has achieved the 'Standards Met' threshold. **Confirmed:**

The NHS England **24/25** DSPT reviews for **Picker Institute Europe, Patient Perspective, Quality Health & Explain** were confirmed as 'Standards Met' on the NHS England DSPT Tracker.

This letter provides confirmation of final support, and all the above conditions are expected to be met within the stated timeframe. I will arrange for the register of approved applications on the HRA website to be updated with this information.

Maintaining CAG support: Reporting requirements

Please note the following guidance on reporting requirements in order to maintain CAG support for the duration of the activity.

- **Annual review report:** It is your responsibility to submit an annual review report every 12 months for the entire duration that confidential patient information is being processed without consent. The next annual review should be provided no later than **29 April 2027** and preferably 4 weeks before this date. Further guidance and the annual review form is available on the [IRAS website](#).
- **Notifying modifications to the scope of CAG support:** Guidance on submitting CAG modifications and the modification form is available on the [IRAS website](#).
- **Notifying the end of activity:** Guidance on notifying the end of activity and the end closure report form is available on [the IRAS website](#).
- **Register of supported applications:** It is a statutory requirement to publish all supported applications to process confidential patient information without consent. Supported applications are published on the [HRA website](#).

Approved documents

The list of documents reviewed and approved at the meeting are as follows.

<i>Document</i>	<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>
CAG application from (signed/authorised) [CYP26_CAG section S251 form non research application]		
Confidentiality policy [CYP26_Confidentiality Policy_V1.0]		
Covering letter on headed paper [CYP26_Cover letter 1 0-7 year olds_V1.0]		
Covering letter on headed paper [CYP26_Cover letter 1 8-15 year olds_V1.0]		
Covering letter on headed paper [CYP26_Cover letter 2 0-7 year olds_V1.0]		

olds_V1.0]		
Covering letter on headed paper [CYP26_Cover letter 2 8-15 year olds_V1.0]		
Covering letter on headed paper [CYP26_Cover letter 3 0-7 year olds_V1.0]		
Covering letter on headed paper [CYP26_Cover letter 3 8-15 year olds_1.0]		
Other [CYP26 Draft_Survey handbook_V1.0]	4.0	11 March 2026
Other [CYP26 Information flowchart V1.0]	2.1	10 March 2026
Other [CYP26 Press Release_V1.0]		
Other [CYP26 Sampling Workbook 1_V1.0]		
Other [CYP26 Sampling Workbook 2_V1.0]		
Other [CYP26 Sampling Workbook for central online survey tool_V1.0]		
Other [CYP26_ Dissent poster_V1.0]		
Other [CYP26_GDPR declaration for additional data analysts_V1.0]		
Other [CYP26_GDPR declaration of data compliance_V1.0]		
Other [CYP26_GDPR Model service contract_V1.0]		
Other [CYP26_Sample declaration form for in-house trusts_V1.0]		
Other [CYP26_Sample declaration form trusts using contractors_V1.0]		
Patient Information Materials [CYP26 Social Media Cards 1-4 accompanying text_V1.0]		
Patient Information Materials [CYP26_ Dissent poster_V1.0]		
Patient Information Materials [CYP26_2024 Multilanguage sheet_V1.0]		
Patient Information Materials [CYP26_Draft Sampling Instructions_V1.0]	3.1	10 March 2026
Patient Information Materials [CYP26_Draft_ Questionnaire 0-7 year olds_V1.0]		
Patient Information Materials [CYP26_Draft_ Questionnaire 8-11 year olds_V1.0]		
Patient Information Materials [CYP26_Draft_ Questionnaire 12-15 year olds_V1.0]		
Patient Information Materials [CYP26_Draft_SMS Content and Guidance_V1.0]	2.1	04 March 2026
Patient Information Materials [CYP26_ Information leaflet_V1.0]		
Write recommendation from Caldicott Guardian (or equivalent) of applicant's organisation [CYP26_S251 Caldicott Guardian recommendation letter_V1.0]		11 March 2026

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries following this letter. I would be grateful if you could quote the above reference number in all future correspondence.

Yours sincerely

Caroline Watchurst
Confidentiality Advisor

On behalf of the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

Email: cag@hra.nhs.uk

Included:

List of members who considered application
Summary of scope of support

Confidentiality Advisory Group sub-committee meeting 10 April 2026

Present:

Name	Capacity
Dr Murat Soncul	CAG Alternate Vice Chair
Dr Martin Andrew	CAG Member (Expert)
Dr Pauline Lyseight-Jones	CAG Member (Lay)

Also in attendance:

Name	Position (or reason for attending)
Ms Caroline Watchurst	HRA Confidentiality Advisor

Appendix A – Summary of Scope of Support

Summary of application

This non-research application submitted by Picker Institute Europe on behalf of the Care Quality Commission, is for the purpose of management of health and social care to conduct the 2026 Children and Young People’s Patient Experience Survey (CYP26).

The CYP falls within the NHS Patient Survey Programme (NPSP). The NPSP was initiated in 2002 by the then Department of Health, and is now overseen by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), the independent regulator of health and social care in England. The CYP26 will be the sixth carried out to date, and the second to be completed using a mixed method approach.

All eligible trusts (121) will be asked to conduct the survey, with fieldwork expected to start from July 2026. Trusts will collect information of all eligible patients and, following suitability checks, will share confidential patient information with the coordination centre (Picker Institute Europe) and one of the approved contractors (Picker Institute Europe, Quality Health, Patient Perspective or Explain).

There are three questionnaire versions to cover age specific groups: 0-7-year-olds (completed by parent / carer only); 8-11-year-olds (completed by parent/ carer; and then questions for the child themselves); and 12-15-year-olds (completed by parent / carer; and then questions for the young person themselves).

The contractors will distribute questionnaires to patients using the approach detailed below:

	Mode of contact
Contact 1	Postal letter inviting the parent/carer/patient to take part online
Contact 2	7 working days after contact 1, an SMS reminder will be sent, including a direct link to the online survey
Contact 3	5 working days after contact 2, a reminder letter will be sent to non-responders
Contact 4	5 working days after contact 3, an SMS reminder will be sent, including a direct link to the online survey
Contact 5	5 working days after contact 4, a final postal reminder is sent, including a paper questionnaire sent with freepost return envelope.

Ahead of each reminder mailing, it will be necessary to remove all respondents who have completed the survey already, and to conduct a DBS or local check on the full sample. If anyone has requested to be opted out of further reminders, they should also be removed at these timepoints.

A recommendation for class 5 and 6 support was requested to cover access to the relevant unconsented activities as described in the application.

Confidential patient information requested

The following sets out a summary of the specified cohort, listed data sources and key identifiers. Where applicable, full datasets and data flows are provided in the application form and relevant supporting documentation as this letter represents only a summary of the full detail.

Cohort	<p>People aged between 15 days and 15 years who were admitted and discharged as inpatients or day cases to an acute hospital between 1st March and 31st May 2026.</p> <p>A list of reasons for exclusion, such as deceased patients and those over 16 years of age at the time of discharge, is included in the application.</p> <p>Maximum of 1,250 patients per Trust</p>
Data Sources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Each participating NHS trust in England providing hospital services (inpatient and day case) to children and young people (121)
Identifiers required for contact purposes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Name of patient 2. Address fields including postcode 3. Mobile phone number (attached to the patient's record so could be either the child / young person's or the parent / carer's) 4. Patient unique identifier
Identifiers required for deceased check purposes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NHS Number 2. Full date of birth
Identifiers required for analysis purposes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trust Code 2. Unique identifier (a three digit Trust code and 4 digital serial number related to sampled patient) 3. Postcode – to map to LSOA 4. Month and Year of birth 5. Gender 6. Ethnicity 7. Date of admission 8. Date of discharge 9. Length of Stay 10. Main speciality of consultant on discharge 11. Treatment Function Code 12. Treatment Centre Admission 13. Admission method 14. NHS Site code-Admitted 15. NHS Site code-Discharged
Additional information	<p>Trusts may also choose to collect additional sample variables outside of those detailed in the Survey Handbook. This can be valuable to trusts in enabling them to make greater use of</p>

	<p>their survey locally to target quality improvements.</p> <p>Sample and mailing data will be submitted by trusts to approved contractors in a single file. The file which contains both mailing and sample information will be split into separate files by the contractor before submitting only the sample information to the Coordination Centre for checking and approval.</p> <p>Please note that the Survey Coordination Centre does not receive any names or full addresses</p>
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