

Azure has completed Level 2 of the National Health Service IG Toolkit assessment.

### Microsoft and the NHS IG Toolkit

As a commercial third party, Microsoft Azure has completed Level 2 of the National Health Service IG Toolkit assessment.

Microsoft used the toolkit to conduct a self-assessment on its security and privacy controls against NHS information governance, security, and privacy requirements. Adherence with the NHS IG Toolkit helps protect the integrity and confidentiality of patient data against unauthorized access, loss, damage, and destruction.

### Microsoft in-scope cloud services

- Azure and Azure Government  
[Learn more](#)
- Intune
- Power BI cloud service either as a standalone service or as included in an Office 365 plan or suite

### Audits, reports, and certificates

The Azure assessment will be renewed annually. Microsoft expects to complete interim assessments when the NHS releases a new version of the IG Toolkit.

- [Microsoft Azure IG Toolkit Assessment Report](#)

### How to implement

- **Azure security blueprint**  
Azure solutions for securely handling sensitive healthcare data to meet NHS requirements.  
[Learn more](#)

### About the NHS IG Toolkit

The [National Health Service](#) (NHS) is the national health system for England, and provides the majority of healthcare for the citizens of England, covering all healthcare practice areas. Founded in 1948, the NHS was the world's first single-payer health system. It is also the world's largest health system, employing over 1.5 million people with a 2016 budget of £116.4 billion.

The NHS manages the health data of more than 64 million NHS patients. The collection, storage, and processing of NHS patient data are subject to multiple laws and regulations, including the Data Protection Act of 1998 and the Confidentiality NHS Code of Practice.

The NHS commissioned the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) to develop and maintain a single standard that governs the collection, storage, and processing of patient data, the [Information Governance \(IG\) Toolkit](#). The IG Toolkit is designed to encourage and guide organizations that are interested in hosting personal health data through the process of complying with the guidelines.

All organizations that have access to NHS patient data are required to provide evidence, by using the NHS IG Toolkit, that they are taking adequate measures to protect patient data. Appropriate mitigating steps must be taken to remediate any noncompliance issues identified during the assessment process.

The NHS IG Toolkit is intended to:

- Provide a standard to address common customer concerns about the security and confidentiality of NHS patient data and the impact on business.
- Demonstrate measurable compliance and provide visibility into potential risks to patient data.
- Promote trust and public confidence in NHS and partner organizations.

## Frequently asked questions

### Who can take advantage of the Azure NHS IG Toolkit assessment?

Organizations that want to use Azure as a platform to host NHS patient data can build on the Azure assessment report to launch their own NHS IG Toolkit assessment, keeping in mind that they also must address any additional controls, especially those not under the responsibility of the cloud service provider.

### Where do I start with my organization's own compliance effort?

Organizations that are interested in hosting NHS patient data are encouraged to become familiar with the governing requirements by [reviewing the NHS IG Toolkit guidelines](#) to determine the scope and controls that they must have in place.

### What are the IG Toolkit attainment levels?

IG Toolkit attainment levels are from 0 to 3:

- 0) There is insufficient evidence to attain level 1.
- 1) The organization has begun to plan the policies, procedures, and/or processes that are necessary to become compliant.
- 2) There are approved and implemented IG policies and procedures in place that have been made available to all relevant staff.
- 3) Staff compliance and the effectiveness of the policies and procedures are monitored and assured.

## Additional resources

- [Information Governance Toolkit Requirements](#)
- [About the IG Toolkit](#) (FAQ)