Dear Colleague,

Re: Emergency Care Data Set (ECDS) Stakeholder Consultation

I am pleased to invite you to contribute to the first stakeholder consultation on the development and implementation of a new Emergency Care Data Set (ECDS).

This collaborative project brings together many strands of urgent and emergency care and will improve the quality of the emergency care data collected in England’s Emergency Departments.

There is a broad consensus that the present data set does not reflect the complexity and range of work that occurs across emergency care. The ECDS will enable better communication at a clinical level, and will also support service commissioners and the effective delivery of health care strategy and policy.

This is a minimum data set and is not intended to restrict the data that is used in Emergency Departments. It is designed to bring together many disparate local initiatives and practices to benefit all through being able to describe the work done across a range of providers in a common language. Inevitably, it will supersede existing data collection arrangements, and the ECDS Project Board is keen to ensure we draw on expertise within the NHS to help ensure that the final data set is the most effective possible.

We are very grateful to the Department of Health for this opportunity to update and improve the information collected, and are confident that the improvements will have many benefits to patient care, audit and research.

**How to respond**

This consultation will run from 26th May 2015 until the 6th July 2015. Responses will enable further revision and refinement of the data set, and also help to understand better the challenges and issues associated with its implementation.
Please respond to the consultation via the HSCIC consultation hub - https://consultations.infostandards.org/scci/scci2062-ecds.

There are two consultation events planned where interested parties will be given the opportunity to discuss the project and the data set with the project team. They are being held on the 18th June (Leeds) and the 26th June (London). Please indicate whether you would like to attend one of these events when completing the online survey or by emailing the Project Manager, Aaron Haile directly via the contact details below. A separate vendor's day, specifically focused on emergency department information system (EDIS) suppliers is also planned for early July, further details to follow.

If you have any queries regarding the data set or require any further information please contact Aaron Haile via Aaron.Haile@rcem.ac.uk.

Thank you for reading this letter, and for your assistance in developing a new data set for emergency care.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Jonathan Benger

National Clinical Director for Urgent Care, NHS England

ECDS Programme Board Chair, and SRO