

Section 4: Data Security and Protection Toolkit

The Data Security and Protection (DSP) Toolkit is an online tool that enables relevant organisations to measure their performance against the data security and information governance requirements, mandated by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC).

All organisations that have access to NHS patient data and systems, including NHSmail and the e-referral service, must use this Toolkit to provide assurance that they are practising good data security and that personal information is handled correctly. Such organisations are required to carry out self-assessments of their compliance against the assertions and evidence contained within the DSP Toolkit.

- Is DSPT a prerequisite for EeRS
- What level of DSPT is required for EeRS?
- Is there a specific DSPT toolkit for the optometry sector?
- Does the Quality in Optometry (QiO) achieve the 'standards met' level required for EeRS?
- Does the DSPT toolkit need to be completed and published prior to onboarding for EeRS?
- How can optometry practices check that their DSPT submission has been published?
- Who can optometry practices contact for support with DSPT submissions?
- Can the headquarters (HQ) of optometry multiples complete and submit DSPT submissions on behalf of all sites?
- Where can optometry practices obtain further information about DSPT?

Is DSPT a prerequisite for EeRS?

Yes. The optical DSPT is a requirement for the Eye Care Electronic Referral System which is being rolled out across parts of England in 2022/23. Electronic communication will become an increasingly integral part of service provision as we consider future opportunities for remote working and implement digital solutions, a key part of the NHS Long Term Plan.

DSPT assessment is something to be undertaken each year to ensure alignment with evolving trends in data security.

What level of DSPT is required for EeRS?

The requirement is to achieve 'Standards Met'.

Is there a specific DSPT toolkit for the optometry sector?

Yes, there is an optical DSPT. Practices can complete the NHS optical DSPT via the [Quality in Optometry](#) (QiO) site or directly via the [NHS Digital DSPT](#) site.

Does the Quality in Optometry (QiO) achieve the 'Standards Met' level required for EeRS?

Yes. The DSPT 'Entry Level' previously used to access NHS mail was removed from the 1 April 2021. The current optical DSPT meets the required level for EeRS.

Does the DSPT toolkit need to be completed and published prior to onboarding for EeRS?

Yes. DSPT achievement must be within the previous 12 months and evidenced prior to practices onboarding for EeRS.

How can optometry practices check that their DSPT submission has been published within the last 12 months?

An organisation search can be completed via the NHS Digital website using the practice ODS code <https://www.dsptoolkit.nhs.uk/OrganisationSearch>
This will confirm the status and date published.

Who can optometry practices contact for support with DSPT submissions?

For any administration queries, including a missing DSPT submission or who the nominated lead administrator is, practices can contact the Exeter Helpdesk either via exeter.helpdesk@nhs.net or 0300 303 4034 quoting the practice ODS code. For any technical queries relating to the evidence required or best practice, optometry sites can contact the NHS England North East and Yorkshire (NEY) regional team via optometry.dsptney@nhs.net

Can the headquarters (HQ) of optometry multiples complete and submit DSPT submissions on behalf of all related sites or branches?

Yes. If your organisation is made up of multiple sites or branches, which all follow the same policies and exist as a single legal entity, then you may choose to publish a single assessment at HQ level. This assessment can then be applied to all the sites listed under the HQ. The DSPT for HQ submissions must be completed via the NHS Digital website. The Exeter helpdesk can support any existing HQ submission which require additional sites or branches linking.

Where can optometry practices obtain further information about DSPT?

NHS Digital have regular webinars and update events which practices can join for free via <https://www.dsptoolkit.nhs.uk/News/webinars> These updates and reminders will be sent automatically to practices who have completed the DSPT via the NHS Digital website. Please find a link below to one of the previous DSPT webinars aimed at opticians. <https://vimeo.com/657901346/e6282302d4>