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We wish to ensure that Digital Health Services are appropriately accessible to patients in Wales when they receive NHS services in England. We recommend that the Welsh Government engage with the UK Government to consider ways in which digital health services in England and Wales can be better aligned and connected.

DHCW note that this recommendation is for Welsh Government but have some observations.

### Technical integration

Integrating the multiple digital systems and data sources used by the range of health and care providers in Wales and England is reliant on the availability of technical resource and budget to implement policy decisions.

DHCW is already involved in work to improve cross border flows of digital information to support service provision. These include:

- Working with organisations on the borders, such as NHS Trusts in England to share digital records of Welsh patients treated in England and vice versa.
- Working with NHS England, via a four nations group, which includes working towards common data standards.
- Through further work and investment in the Digital Services for Patients and the Public (DSPP) programme, patients could have access to their health and care data to share with whom they choose.

### Wider considerations

The availability of good quality data is essential not only for the provision of care and treatment to individuals but for secondary uses like planning, quality improvement and research. Any ambitions to widen access to cross border services will need to be underpinned by arrangements that allow data to flow effectively within Wales in the first instance. There would be benefit in having a strategic approach to enable data flow within the health and care system in Wales, and between cross border stakeholders, to address the barriers to sharing data faced by DHCW and other stakeholders.