

Reasonable Adjustment Digital Flag (RADF) Information Standards Notice (ISN): Summary

What is an ISN?

Information standards are rules which tell people how they should share and organise information. For example, standards may specify which format and structure should be used when exchanging data, so that the information can be used and understood more easily.

Information Standards Notices (ISNs) are published to announce new or changes to information standards. ISNs include details about the standard, when the standard will be implemented, whether it is mandated or voluntary, the legal or contractual basis upon which the data are being requested and details of key contacts.

What does the Reasonable Adjustment Digital Flag Information Standard mandate?

Under the Equality Act 2010, organisations have a legal responsibility to make reasonable adjustments to their provision, so that people with disabilities can access their services as easily as people who do not have disabilities.

The Reasonable Adjustment Digital Flag (RADF) has been built by NHS England in the NHS Spine and aims to ensure that health and care professionals can record, share, and view and review details of the reasonable adjustments that an individual needs. The flag may also include details of a person's significant impairments and underlying conditions, on an optional basis.

Aims of the flag:

- Clearly identify patients who need reasonable adjustments when accessing services.
- Identify patients with impairments, including learning disability or autism, and other significant impairments.
- Identify and share the adjustments needed to ensure that an episode of care can proceed positively for that person.
- Ensure that the information is presented consistently and is accessible wherever and whenever patients seek care.
- Promote tailored and personalised care by identifying and updating reasonable adjustments, shared via the reasonable adjustment digital flag, in conjunction with the wishes of patients and carers.

What does this mean for organisations?

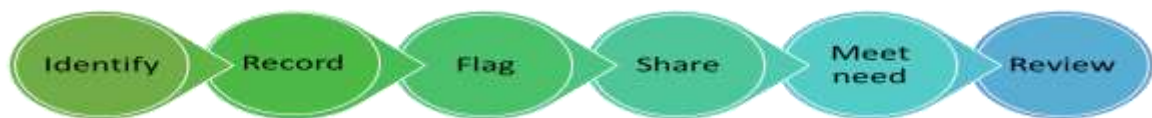
The Reasonable Adjustment Digital Flag (RADF) ISN applies to all health and publicly funded social care. It applies across the NHS and independent providers, social care (as providers) as well as independent contractors such as GPs and dentists. It also impacts all health and care IT system suppliers. Commissioners need to be mindful of these requirements in their contracts to ensure they enable

and promote the Standard's requirements. The ISN sets out the dates by which organisations must implement the RADF ISN (please see key dates below).

Typically, GPs will create reasonable adjustment flags, but they can also be created by a range of health and care professionals such as nurses and therapists from learning disability teams, and it is expected that it will be everyone's responsibility to view and create reasonable adjustment digital flags where appropriate.

Phase one – local first

Requires organisations to identify those that may need reasonable adjustments and then to complete a six-step process, as set out below, using defined & specified codes, in their own setting.



Phase two – national

The Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources Application Programming Interface - FHIR API - is currently being tested. This will enable information and data to be passed effectively between each organisation's own clinical IT systems and the Reasonable Adjustment Digital Flag on the NHS Spine, thus sharing locally recorded information between different organisations. The Flag can also be accessed directly via the National Care Record Service (NCRS) portal.

Information can be both received and uploaded by each organisation, ensuring that the information held is relevant, up to date and best meets the needs of the disabled person.

Key dates

RADF ISN Implementation date: 12 September 2023

Organisations must conform to phase 1 requirements by: 31 March 2024

Organisations must conform to full conformance (phase 2) by: 30 June 2024

Post implementation review date: 30 June 2025

Useful links

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/information-standards/information-standards-and-data-collections-including-extractions/publications-and-notifications/information-standards-notice>

<https://digital.nhs.uk/binaries/content/assets/website-assets/isce/4019/4019772020isn.pdf>