New Patient Opt-out Service (POS)

Differences Between the Old and New POS Services

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# Introduction

The Patient Opt-out Service (POS) is part of the National Data Opt-Out Service (NDOP) provided by NHS Digital. There are two components to NDOP:

* NDOP website – where members of the public can opt out of their data being used for anything other than primary care
* POS – a system when users/system providers can send if lists of patients’ NHS numbers to be cleaned and remove those patients who have decided to opt-out.

This document aims to describe the functional differences between the old and new POS service.

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# Background

The existing POS service is stored on physical servers and is based on a combination of Spine technologies and Microsoft Windows services. The POS service has been redeveloped and is now part of the Data Processing Service which is a Amazon Web Services (AWS) solution. The aim was to provide a functional equivalent service, but the migration has included some minor changes/improvements.

# Key Differences

## MESH Changes

The POS Service still uses the Message Exchange for Social Care and Health (MESH) interfaces to transfer files to/from the service. However, the new service has a new MESH mailbox. This means that any messages sent to the new POS service need to be sent to the new MESH mailbox. The existing mailbox is X26HC036 this will need to be changed to X26HC065. The WorkflowId of SPINE\_NTT\_UPHOLDING remains the same. Further information on how to send MESH messages can be found on the [Check for National Data Opt-Outs Service](https://digital.nhs.uk/services/national-data-opt-out/compliance-with-the-national-data-opt-out/check-for-national-data-opt-outs-service) page.

## File Format changes

As the new system has been implemented in AWS using Linux services, the files are created on a UNIX rather than Windows. This means that where the files from the existing system used <CRLF> characters at the end of each line, this will now be <LF>. If using a Windows system there are utilities available such as unix2dos that we convert to the correct format.
See the following website for details https://www.fileformat.info/convert/text/unix2dos.tr

## Error Receipt Format

If there any issues with processing the file submitted to POS, the error receipt format has change. The format is now:
Global Job Id,File Path,Name of Submitter,Submission Start,Cleaning End,Repository Date,Status,Error Type,Error Message,Error Time

Below is an example:
ae8eb3fa-d9ac-4e2d-afe7-7195bf8ff734,delimiter\_mismatch.csv,authorized-mailbox,01/01/2020 05:30:00,01/01/2020 05:31:20,01/01/2020 00:00:00,Failed,POSREJ027,File rejected - Problem cleaning datafile,01/01/2020 05:30:30

This shows an error where the POS system had an issue cleaning the supplied file.

## Improved Reporting

The new POS system will still send an acknowledgement file to the sending MESH mailbox on successful receipt of the MESH message. This comprises a single acknowledge file (.ctl) that confirms the input files have been picked up by MESH and have been sent to the target mailbox.

A new additional MESH message will also be sent to the sending MESH mailbox to inform that the processing job has been created for the submission. This message is comprised of two files (.dat and .ctl) and states that a job has been created in POS to clean the supplied file

Finally as with the existing service, a final MESH message is sent which comprises of two files (.dat and .ctl) which is the cleaned file and associated control file. Any NHS numbers of patients that have opted-out will have been removed from the .dat file.