

## Sp-ICE (Specialist Services electronic reporting using the Clinisys ICE web browser) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Links to the sections:

1. [Information Governance](#)
2. [Information Technology](#)
3. [Training](#)
4. [Using Sp-ICE](#)

Please note: Hematos is the system used by Specialist Services across NHSBT for the collection and management of data relating to the many different areas of testing that are carried out under the Specialist Services' umbrella.

### 1.0 Information Governance

#### 1.1 When an organisation chooses to share its data on Sp-ICE how can they be confident that other organisations are providing the appropriate notification to patients about what will be done with their data?

NHSBT anticipates that all organisations will be compliant with their legal obligations in respect of informing patients about uses of their personal data. Please refer to section 15.3 of the SLA between NHSBT and each Trust:

Where information related to a patient is provided by the Purchaser to NHSBT, then unless otherwise stated by the Purchaser in relation to that information, NHSBT will be entitled to assume that the patient concerned has given consent to the disclosure of that information by NHSBT to a third party for bona fide medical purposes in accordance with legal and medical ethical requirements and that the information may be so disclosed.

#### 1.2 Will Sp-ICE users be able to see other hospital's data regarding their patient?

Yes, if the referring organisation granted access for other organisations to view their results. If a patient has been seen at an organisation that has refused to allow other organisations to see their results, the current organisation would be able to see that a sample had been submitted for the patient but not what the results are. If there is a series of results, they would see any result from organisations who have agreed to share results and a blank result for organisations that have refused to share results on the date of the request. The results can be obtained by contacting RCI, IBGRL, H&I or CMT (SCI).



### **1.3 For what purposes will the information in the Sp-ICE database be used – will this only be used to inform decisions about the healthcare of the patients concerned, or is there a wider research use?**

NHSBT will not use patient or donor data held on the Sp-ICE database for research purposes. Sp-ICE enables hospital users to access test results relating to individual patients, for the purpose of direct care. No bulk data extraction functionality exists within Sp-ICE.

### **1.4 What steps will be taken to ensure that only those with a legitimate interest in providing healthcare have access to a patient's records?**

NHSBT requests that Sp-ICE users and organisations assume responsibility for monitoring & managing appropriate access to the system. Any misuse must be managed by user organisations.

The confidentiality agreement included as part of FRM4116 sets out clear requirements for all users of the Sp-ICE application and must be signed by each user.

Upon logging into Sp-ICE a user must accept the following confidentiality agreement.

- Confidentiality Agreement for Users of the NHSBT ICE Diagnostic Results Service (Sp-ICE)
- I acknowledge, understand and agree to adhere to the following conditions of access to Sp-ICE
- I will respect and maintain the privacy & confidentiality of all accessible data and understand that unauthorised access or disclosure of personal/confidential data is a breach of privacy & may result in disciplinary, civil, and/or criminal actions against me
- I will not disclose the data or information to anyone other than those to whom I am authorised to do so.
- My Username is considered equivalent to my signature, I am responsible for all system activity made under my Username.
- I will access Sp-ICE & data that it holds only for the purposes for which I am explicitly authorised.
- I will not use Sp-ICE, including personal or confidential information it holds, for any other business purpose or for my personal interest.
- I will not provide anyone else with access to Sp-ICE e.g. by sharing my account details or allowing use by others when I have logged in
- My usage of Sp-ICE will be monitored by the Trust & NHSBT & information so gathered may be passed to my line managers, and/or used as evidence in the event of a breach of these rules.
- I will maintain proper password security by choosing a complex password, not revealing it to anyone and changing it as required.
- I understand that the references to personal, confidential and special category data in this application are for information only and do not absolve me from my obligations under Data Protection Legislation.
- Should my employment be terminated or my work in relation to Sp-ICE discontinue for any reason, I understand that I will continue to be bound by this Confidentiality Agreement.
- In addition, NHSBT will be able to generate usage reports to identify which users have accessed specific reports.

### **1.5 Can an individual patient's report be hidden, and their demographics anonymised if the patient chooses not to share their results?**

NHSBT confirm that should a patient choose to opt out of their results being shared this can be achieved. It is the responsibility of the requesting organisation to inform NHSBT, with each request, whether a patient wishes to opt out of sharing their results.

NHSBT will prevent reports for that patient being viewed. The reports will be hidden from the requesting organisation as well as shared organisations. Results for these patients will be provided to the requesting organisation by NHSBT via an agreed alternative process.

### **1.6 How much identifiable data is there likely to be especially in terms of the potential sharing of information with other organisations?**

Identifiable data on Sp-ICE:

- Patient demographics
- Patient and Donor reports (Please note unrelated donor reports will be anonymised)
- Hematos sample information
- Authorised (PDF) copy of the Hematos report
- Historic data which will build up over time

(See response to "What data items are viewable?" in [section 4](#))

### **1.7 How is access to our organisations data controlled?**

NHSBT will control access to an organisations data via a locations-based table. This will be managed in line with the options relating to disclosure of diagnostic test results confirmed by each organisation in [FRM4116](#).

### **1.8 How will NHSBT ensure that a Trust's data is only visible to that Trust when confidentiality is requested?**

NHSBT has implemented a validated configuration process.

### **1.9 Can I create accounts for users from other organisations?**

No. If a Local Administrator creates a user account, it must be associated with that organisation and that user would inherit the Data Sharing Agreements configured by NHSBT for that organisation. It is the responsibility of the employing organisation to create their accounts.

### **1.10 Can I create generic accounts for users within my organisation?**

Generic accounts must not be created. Users must have a unique account to ensure data security compliance.

### **1.11 What audit information will be available?**

Audit data

- Hospitals will be able to audit access at an individual report level
- NHSBT will be able to provide reports on request covering report access

### **1.12 Can the system limit access through role-based access?**

Yes, the roles are described in the [User Guide](#), appendix 1.

Report filing will be restricted to within an organisation, i.e. even if a user has permissions to file reports, they will not be able to do so for external organisations. Access to view patient and result records will be controlled by location-based permissions as defined within the information governance documentation.

### **1.13 Does NHSBT consider that it is managing the Sp-ICE database as a data processor or a data controller?**

Given the level of control that NHSBT holds on the design and operation of Sp-ICE we believe we are joint data controllers along with participating Trusts in the management of the Sp-ICE database.

### **1.14 How long will PID be stored on the Sp-ICE database?**

It is NHSBT's intention to manage retention of data in compliance with the NHS Records Management Code of Practice.

### **1.15 Do you use a secure email system e.g. @nhs.net email accounts over the NHS HSCN network for the transmission of sensitive personal data?**

Email is not used for transmission of sensitive data.

### **1.16 Is there an electronic copy of the NHSBT Privacy Policy?**

NHSBT has published a [privacy statement](#).

The NHSBT Privacy Policy is not covered in just one document. All personal identifiable information held within NHSBT is subject to the Data Protection Act 2018, the UK's implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and the Caldicott Principles.

If you would like to view any or all the following policies, please email [ICE@nhsbt.nhs.uk](mailto:ICE@nhsbt.nhs.uk) -

- Code of Conduct.
- Data Protection Policy
- Information Security Policy
- Information Risk Policy
- Privacy Impact Assessment

### **1.17 Does NHSBT employ any 3rd-Party, Contractor, Sub-Agents or Servants to process sensitive personal data stored on the Sp-ICE system? If so, are there Data Sharing Agreements in place?**

NHSBT has formal agreements in place with all our IT suppliers relating to data security and confidentiality.

[Back to top](#)

## **2.0 Information Technology**

### **2.1 How can we access the Sp-ICE application?**

- Fill in [FRM4116](#)
- NHSBT will review self-directed training
- NHSBT will then grant access

### **2.2 What are the ICT connectivity requirements for the Sp-ICE application?**

The application is only accessible over a HSCN connection.

IP: 194.227.100.181.

Enable HTTPS access to this site / IP address on the HSCN infrastructure.

Service Identification Numbers (SIN)

NHSBT HSCN: 504621 or 504620

### **2.3 We have a HSCN connection but still cannot log on via the link**

Please contact your local IT to request access to the NHSBT ICE website through your HSCN link, using the details in 2.2.

### **2.4 What do we do if we haven't got a HSCN connection?**

Request a HSCN connection or request a connection via Azure Application Proxy:

HSCN Connection:

For details on how to connect to HSCN please refer to the information on the [Digital NHS website](#).

NHSBT cannot order an HSCN connection for a Trust, the Trust must request the connection.

Any non-NHS entities (private hospitals for example) will need to self-fund the connection.

For Sp-ICE connections via HSCN or Azure Application Proxy:

- Fill in [FRM4116](#)
- NHSBT will review self-directed training
- NHSBT will then grant access

## **2.5 What client/local provision needs to be made to gain access to the application for HSCN users?**

A shortcut will need to be placed on each client machine that will be used to access the application to <https://edilive.nhsbt.nhs.uk/icedesktop/>

OR

If you already use ICE within your Trust, you can link to Sp-ICE from your ICE system.

NB: Sp-ICE will still require a separate log in.

An Azure Application Proxy Connection can be configured for non-HSCN customers.

## **2.6 What is Azure Application Proxy Connection?**

Azure Application Proxy uses a Microsoft Account with Multi Factor Authentication to allow secure remote access to Sp-ICE.

## **2.7 What client/local provision needs to be made to gain access to the application for Azure Application Proxy users?**

None. Detailed login information will be sent to individuals following account creation.

## **2.8 What level of encryption is in place to protect our patient identifiable data?**

All Sp-ICE traffic (Including Test) is encrypted. HTTPS (Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure) uses the SSL/TLS protocol for encryption and authentication.

## **2.9 Does the Sp-ICE system store verified NHS Numbers in accordance with the NHS Information Standards Board Data Set Change Notice 32/2008?**

The NHS Numbers are verified within our LIMS system (Hematos) and within Sp-ICE in accordance with the NHS Information Standards Board Data Set change notice 32/2008

## **2.10 Does the Sp-ICE system store data in encrypted format "at rest"?**

All Sp-ICE data is stored within secure NHSBT data centres and as such, there is no requirement for encryption however all Sp-ICE traffic (Including Test) is encrypted.

## **2.11 Does the Sp-ICE web front-end system contain links to other non-NHSBT web sites?**

No, hyper links to other applications are not supported in Sp-ICE v7.1.9.

## 2.12 What are the PC requirements?

There are no specific PC requirements as long as you can access the web via HSCN or Azure Application Proxy.

Sp-ICE must be accessed via Microsoft Edge browser running in 'Compatibility Mode' and 'Compatibility View Mode'

### [How to set up Compatibility Mode:](#)

Compatibility View Settings:

1. Ensure that the ICE URL has been added to the Internet Explorer Compatibility View Settings (Cog icon in top right corner - Compatibility View Settings - Add the ICE URL)
2. Rapport internet banking software is not installed
3. The URL you use is in your 'Trusted Sites'
4. Turn on Pop-up Blocker is ticked and add the ICE URL within the Pop-up Blocker Settings. Internet Options > Security > Pop-up Blocker
5. Tick both options for Disable script debugging in Internet Options > Advanced Tab (IE and other)
6. Enable third-party browser extensions" box to ticked in Internet Options/Advanced
7. Third party plugins which affect how pages are viewed in IE can cause tests on the requesting screen to not appear
8. Also ensure that the zoom/magnify option is set to 100% as this will affect the screen resolution that is detected by ICE

PDFs: suggested setting is to enable Adobe as the default for downloads.

[Back to top](#)

## **3.0 Sp-ICE Training**

### **3.1 What training material is available?**

A training presentation and detailed user guide is available on the NHSBT [Hospitals and Science website](#) Training is self-directed by the user.

### **3.2 Can we have more than one administrator?**

Yes, within reason you can have as many administrators as you require.

[Back to top](#)



## **4.0 Using Sp-ICE**

### **4.1 Are there any cost implications for using Sp-ICE e.g. annual service charges?**

There are no cost implications for using Sp-ICE

### **4.2 Is the sample status available via Sp-ICE?**

Yes. When the sample is received by NHSBT and booked into the LIMS, the 'Investigation' column will display 'Sample Received'. When the sample is reported this will update with the name of the investigation and date reported.

### **4.3 What historical results will be available via Sp-ICE?**

RCI results are available from 31st October 2006.

H&I results are available from 28th November 2012.

Reports from the International Blood Group Reference Laboratory (IBGRL) molecular diagnostics department are available from 26th November 2013.

Reports from the International Blood Group Reference Laboratory (IBGRL) red cell reference department are available from Thursday 8th May 2014.

Reports from CMT (SCI) are available from the 31st July 2015.

### **4.4 Will the results appear different to the paper report I currently receive?**

There will be a link to the PDF report that is identical to your current paper report.

A subset of results for RCI requests will be displayed within the Sp-ICE browser with a link to the PDF report.

### **4.5 Can I print the PDF report from Sp-ICE?**

The PDF report will open within Adobe and based on your local application settings, can be printed to a local printer, saved to your network/PC. Additionally, information can be selected and copied into your local systems.

### **4.6 When we agree to cease hard copy reports how will we receive RCI antibody cards?**

These will also be sent in PDF format and can be printed to a local printer.

### **4.7 What parameters can you search on?**

You can search on patient, surname, forename, DOB, NHS number, hospital number and NHSBT number either individually or in combination e.g. surname, forename and DOB search.

#### **4.8 Will hospitals be able to upload results from tests carried out in their own laboratories onto Sp-ICE?**

No, Sp-ICE will only report results from Hematos and therefore from samples tested by NHSBT.

#### **4.9 Will it be compulsory to receive results via Sp-ICE or can a hospital still have hard copies?**

NHSBT expect organisations to receive results via Sp-ICE and are working towards the cessation of hard copies of reports. Provision of hard copies of RCI reports will cease by June 2025. Hard copy report cessation will follow for other functions.

#### **4.10 What data items are viewable?**

Data Items viewable are:

- Surname.
- Forename.
- Date of Birth.
- Requesting location and Requesting Clinician.
- Hospital, NHS and NHSBT identifiers and NHSBT Specimen numbers.
- Date sample was taken, date sample was received by NHSBT and date and time the sample was reported.
- Indicates if the request is for RCI, IBGRL, H&I or CMT (SCI).
- ABO and RhD result.
- The browser will also display the following:
- RCI antibody type, specificity and technique.
- RCI sample type.
- RCI quantification and titration results.
- H&I B27 results
- Link to the full PDF report

#### **4.11 Will you know if the sample is from an antenatal patient?**

You may be able to tell from the Sp-ICE browser that the sample is from an antenatal patient as an option to view cumulative reports will be available for those requesting quantification and titration results. This will enable you to see all the previous anti-D/c quantification results or titration results for that pregnancy (providing appropriate access etc). You will be able to produce graphs showing this information too. You will also be able to tell that the sample is from an antenatal patient when you open the link to the full PDF report.

#### **4.12 What happens if there is a query regarding an authorised result and a new report is issued?**

The new/latest report will “overwrite” the previous report for that sample on Sp-ICE and the new/latest report will state “amended report”. NHSBT will check to see who has accessed the previous report and telephone them to inform them that the result/report has changed.

#### **4.13 Who can access International Blood Group Reference Laboratory (IBGRL) reports?**

IBGRL reports are available to administrators and users who have access to Red Cell Immunohaematology (RCI) reports.

#### **4.14 What reports from the IBGRL molecular diagnostics department are available to view on the Sp-ICE browser?**

- Fetal blood group genotyping from maternal plasma.
- Full genotyping (for common blood group antigens).
- Rh genotyping.
- Paternal RHD zygosity testing.
- Fetal sex typing

#### **4.15 What reports from the IBGRL red cell reference department will be available on Sp-ICE?**

The reports are categorised as RCI (Reference) and will accompany the final RCI reports in cases where a referral for further investigation by IBGRL red cell reference has been deemed necessary by the local RCI laboratory.

The following IBGRL reports will be available:

- Investigations of serological problems of a complex nature, including:
- Antibodies to high frequency antigens.
- Antibodies to low frequency antigens.
- Complex mixtures of antibodies.
- The investigation of Rh anomalies by DNA sequencing of RHD and RHCE genes.

[Back to top](#)