



General Register Office for Scotland
information about Scotland's people

Paper NHSCR GB 2/07
Business benefits for PSD and NHSCR
to view each others data

May 2007

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1. As background I chair a quarterly Working Group Meeting with the Practitioner Services Divisions of the Health Service. Over the years we have continually looked for innovative ways to improve our interactions that mainly take the form of telephone enquiries between the CHI operators looking for information on patients posting history and for our staff checking a CHI number and dates of acceptance into the new area. We receive around 40,000 enquiries each year and there are around 10,000 enquiries made by us in the same time frame. With a recent change in computer desk top supplier the NHSCR system is now part of the NHS Net.
2. We now have the technical capability to view each others data bases. Careful security systems following the CR for England and Wales model will need to be put in place to insure appropriate auditable access and confidentiality for using the information.
3. There are considerable savings to be made in telephone charges, data quality and in staff times and disruption. This is a simple change in IT terms that demonstrate the significant benefit of joined up government.

Muriel Douglas
NHSR
25TH May 2007