

**BASCD 2023 ABSTRACT #16****Barriers and facilitators to including dentistry  
in a regional shared health record**

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**Background:**

The Great North Care Record (GNCR) allows patient records to be shared across a range of health and care services in Northeast England and North Cumbria, benefitting patients through facilitating more informed decision-making. Currently, primary care dental services cannot access or contribute to the GNCR. The views of relevant stakeholders should be sought to determine whether it would be beneficial and feasible for dental services to be incorporated into the GNCR.

**Objectives:**

To qualitatively explore the views of relevant stakeholders, identifying potential barriers and facilitators to the inclusion of primary care dentistry into the GNCR, to inform potential integration of dental services into the GNCR.

**Methods:**

A purposive sample of relevant healthcare workers and members of the public living and working in the region were invited to participate in semi-structured interviews. Interviews were steered by a topic guide, recorded, then transcribed verbatim. Data were analysed thematically by two researchers independently, before discussion to agree upon themes. Ethics were approved by Newcastle University Ethics Committee.

**Results:**

Interviews were conducted with 11 stakeholders. Five key themes were identified: information accuracy, efficiency, safety and security, visibility of records, and optimal GNCR design. Dentists and members of the public found the current reliance upon patient recall to obtain medical histories to be burdensome, with potential inaccuracies, further exacerbated by time constraints. Participants felt record sharing was a positive step, but expressed concerns around inappropriate or unnecessary use of patient information and potential medico-legal implications. Nonetheless, they saw value in incorporating dental services within the GNCR and described ideal formats for effective training, implementation and use.

**Conclusion:**

These findings indicate that integration of primary care dentistry into the GNCR will provide benefit, provided that the system design aids efficiency, and safeguards are incorporated to ensure responsible data use.

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