

Clinical Record Interactive Search

(CRIS)

Key contact details:

To discuss CRIS services or the dataset, you can contact the team via email at cris.administrator@slam.nhs.uk

Data dictionary:

CRIS allows researchers to carry out projects using information from South London and Maudsley (SLaM) NHS Foundation Trust clinical records. The Trust is a specialist mental healthcare Trust, providing mental health and Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) services for the following four London boroughs: Lambeth; Southward; Lewisham; and Croydon, which have a collective population of around 1.3 million.

The main source of data for CRIS is SLaM's electronic health records system and the equivalent IAPT services system managed by SLaM. These records date back to 2007, with roughly 482,000 mental health records and 350,000 IAPT records. The data within CRIS belongs to SLaM, and the Trust is the data controller for CRIS.

No patient identifiable information (PII) can be accessed by researchers, all PII is removed from CRIS data repositories entirely. CRIS data is provided in an anonymised format.

Accessing CRIS data:

Access to CRIS data is aligned with the nationally adopted 5 Safes principles framework. To access CRIS data, researchers must have a contract with SLaM. Individual users named in approved CRIS projects require a contract (this can be an honorary contract) with the Trust to ensure all users are contractually obliged to adhere to relevant Trust policies regarding confidentiality and data protection.

Applications to access CRIS and the analyses carried out using CRIS data are closely reviewed, monitored and audited by a CRIS Oversight Committee. This patient-led Committee is responsible for ensuring all research applications comply with ethical and legal guidelines. The CRIS Oversight Committee carries representation from the Maudsley Caldicott Guardian and is chaired by a service user, and will review all applications based on the following principles for approval:

- Underlying value and potential benefits of the project – project is deemed to be in the health interests of patients
- Appropriate supervision/governance – sufficient research governance in place
- Ability to flag and mitigate risk of inadvertent identification
- The project is not for performance management

Applications are circulated to the Committee once a week and the approval process is estimated to take approximately 4 weeks.

All projects proposing to use CRIS are required to submit a written application to the Committee. To make an access request, the researcher will need to complete an online [application form, which can be found here](#). Please note, applications cannot be saved once they have been started.

Research ethics approval has been granted to CRIS as an anonymised data resource for secondary analysis, meaning all users applying to use CRIS do not need their own project specific ethics approval.

For support completing the application form, the CRIS team have created some [helpful guidance notes](#), and can also be contacted directly with any additional queries using the contact details at the top of this document.

Getting CRIS data after approval:

Once a project is approved, a member of the CRIS extraction team will be in touch to discuss data specification and extraction. A Trust network account will be created and access to a CRIS shared drive granted.

Once the approved data has been extracted by the CRIS team, it will be deposited in the shared drive for the user to analyse. The shared drive can either be accessed on site at KCL (12 hot desks available for CRIS users) or remotely via a virtual desktop. All patient level data must remain within the Trust firewall at all times, and no analysis can be conducted outside of SLAM. The available statistical programmes for CRIS users are STATA and R. Only aggregated data may be taken out of the Trust for publication purposes.

An audit log is checked by the CRIS team once a week to ensure the use of CRIS data matches the specific project that has been approved.

User access agreements:

Contract: Researchers will need to provide evidence of either a contract with SLAM, or a research/KHP passport.

Training: Researchers applying for access must provide evidence of completing Information Governance training in the past year.

Additional information:

The CRIS team hold regular drop-in mornings and monthly academic sessions, where the team can offer advice and support with using CRIS, and also provide an opportunity for users of CRIS to meet and discuss their work collaboratively.

Other CRIS services offered include:

Data Extraction Service: team supports users with translating their research question into detailed data specifications, and extracts the data on behalf of users. This removes the need for direct access.

Natural Language Processing (NLP) Service: automatic extraction of entities from free text to structured format. Further information here: [Introducing the CRIS Natural Language Processing \(NLP\) Service](#).

Clinical Data Linkage Service: secure safe haven to host approved linkages to third party datasets, for example HES, Department of Education, DWP. Further information on this service can be found here: [CRIS Data Linkages](#). An example of linking CRIS data with non-health data can be seen here, [Pioneering link between census data and electronic mental health records](#).

Example CRIS approved projects can be viewed here: [CRIS Case Studies](#).

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