

# FARSITE

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is FARSITE?

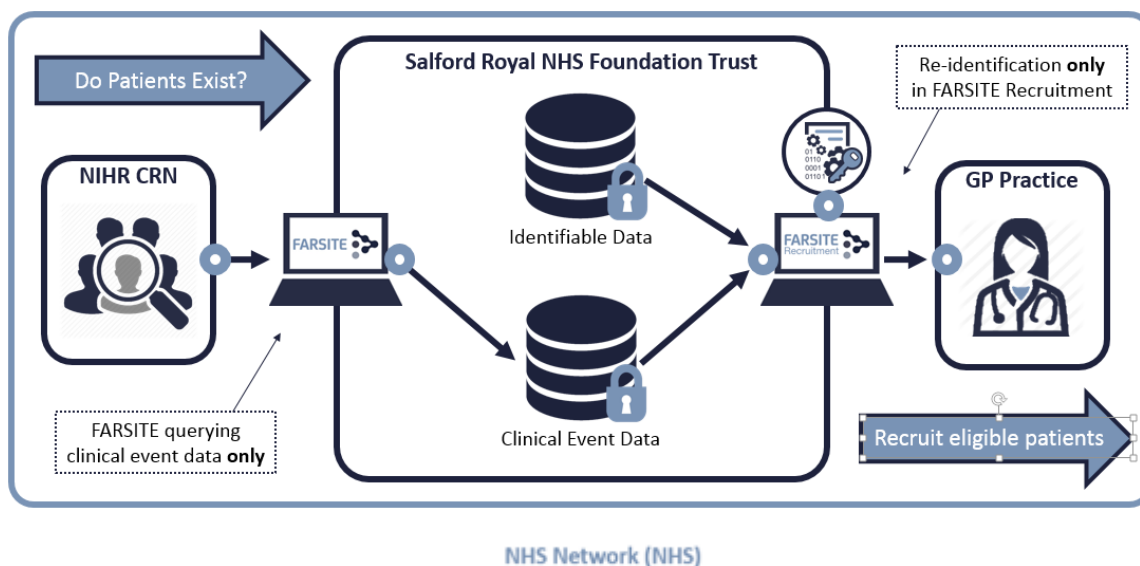
FARSITE is a profiling tool for searching, finding, and contacting patients with research opportunities, whilst still preserving their confidentiality.

FARSITE has been developed by NorthWest EHealth, a collaboration between the University of Manchester and NHS partners. It is used by your local clinical research network and GPs that want an easier way to get involved with research.

### How does it work?

The principle behind FARSITE is to maintain patient confidentiality by limiting the information given to researchers and only allowing GPs to decide whether their patient should be contacted.

A researcher inputs the protocol for a clinical trial and this is then matched to eligible patients who can be contacted by their own GP, via an automated system. The researcher doesn't have access to individual patient records, details of who meets the criteria for a protocol is only available to the patient's GP practice. This is what we call local ownership and local control.



### Is it safe?

The GP information pack explains in detail what data is extracted, how it is processed, and the technical and operational safeguards we have in place. FARSITE has been reviewed by the National Information Governance Board (NIGB) and the system is currently in use in over 250 practices across the North of England.

### Does it work with all GP systems?

It works with all major GP clinical systems including Vision, TTP System One, EMIS LV, EMIS Web, etc.

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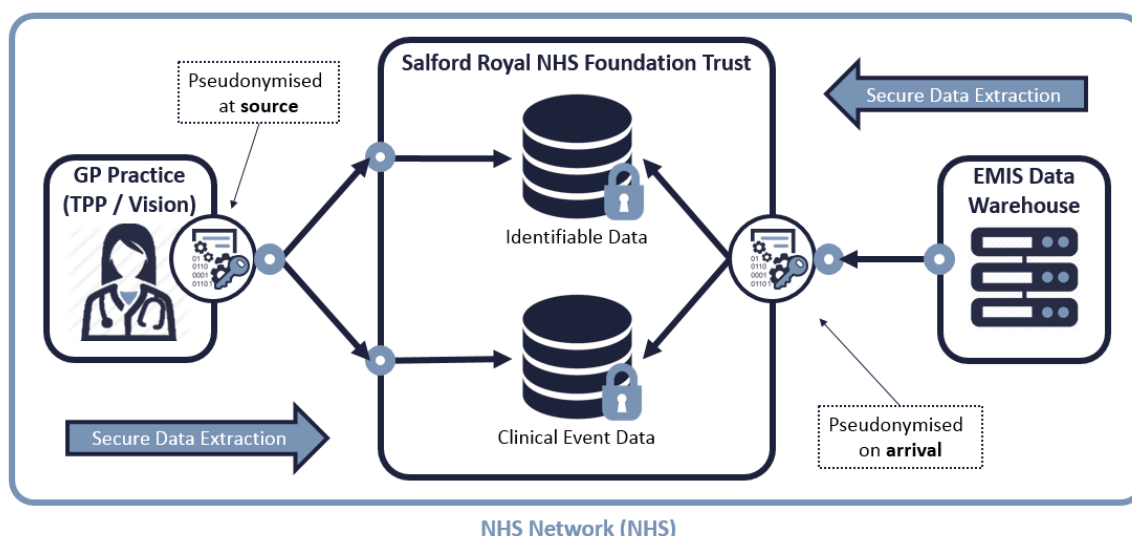
### My system does this anyway – what’s the benefit for me?

GPs don’t have to run the searches; these can be run centrally, saving time and effort. A link to e-fulfilment service Docmail also hugely reduces the administration burden for GPs.

The Department of Health calls for every patient to have access and opportunity to research that may be of particular relevance to them – **FARSITE** supports GPs to do this. This is also a requirement in the NHS Constitution Handbook.

### Who sees patient identifiable data?

All identifiable records are seen only by the GP, as the data controller. Researchers see only de-identified records, as the datasets are held in two different files, stored securely on the N3 NHS network.



### Do you keep those records indefinitely?

Once the GP signs up to FARSITE, data is usually extracted on a monthly basis. If the GP no longer wishes to participate, we then remove that practice from FARSITE by the time of the next refresh. We also have additional technical safeguards in place to stop out of date data being used in recruitment. We don’t want unnecessary work for GPs or for the wrong patients to be contacted.

### Who profits from using this data?

NorthWest EHealth is a not-for-profit partnership and FARSITE was created to speed up research feasibility and recruitment, saving GPs time and allowing treatments to be tested and improving patient outcomes.

### Are there costs associated?

**FARSITE** is currently funded as a local initiative to improve patient access to research, there are no direct costs to a GP practice. The CRN are also here to support you with research and help you understand how to get the best out of the system.

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### How do I sign up?

- Sign the Data Collection Agreement and a code of conduct must be signed by each individual wishing to use **FARSITE**.
- The paperwork is then sent to NWEH who then process and send a copy of the countersigned DCA to your local clinical research network.
- You will then receive a 'Next steps email' from the Farsite team at NWEH. It is extremely important for you to follow and register via the link highlighted in the email body. If you do not do this NWEH will not be notified to create you a user account on FARSITE.
- Once we have received the notification that you have registered via the Next Steps email link we will send a data request to the data supplier. EMIS or Apollo.
- Upon receipt of our request for data, the data suppliers give a ten working day service level agreement. At the end of the SLA, (if you are an EMIS practice) you will receive an email from EMIS asking you to tick a box in the body of the email.
- Concurrently to this, NWEH FARSITE team will set you up with a FARSITE user account. Once created, you will receive an email notification of your username and password. You must change this password as soon as you receive it.
- You will be notified when you are able to log in and also the date of the next data extraction relevant to your practice.

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