

Lessons of the NuRS study. Reflections and approaches from a multi-centre big data study in the NHS.

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Introduction

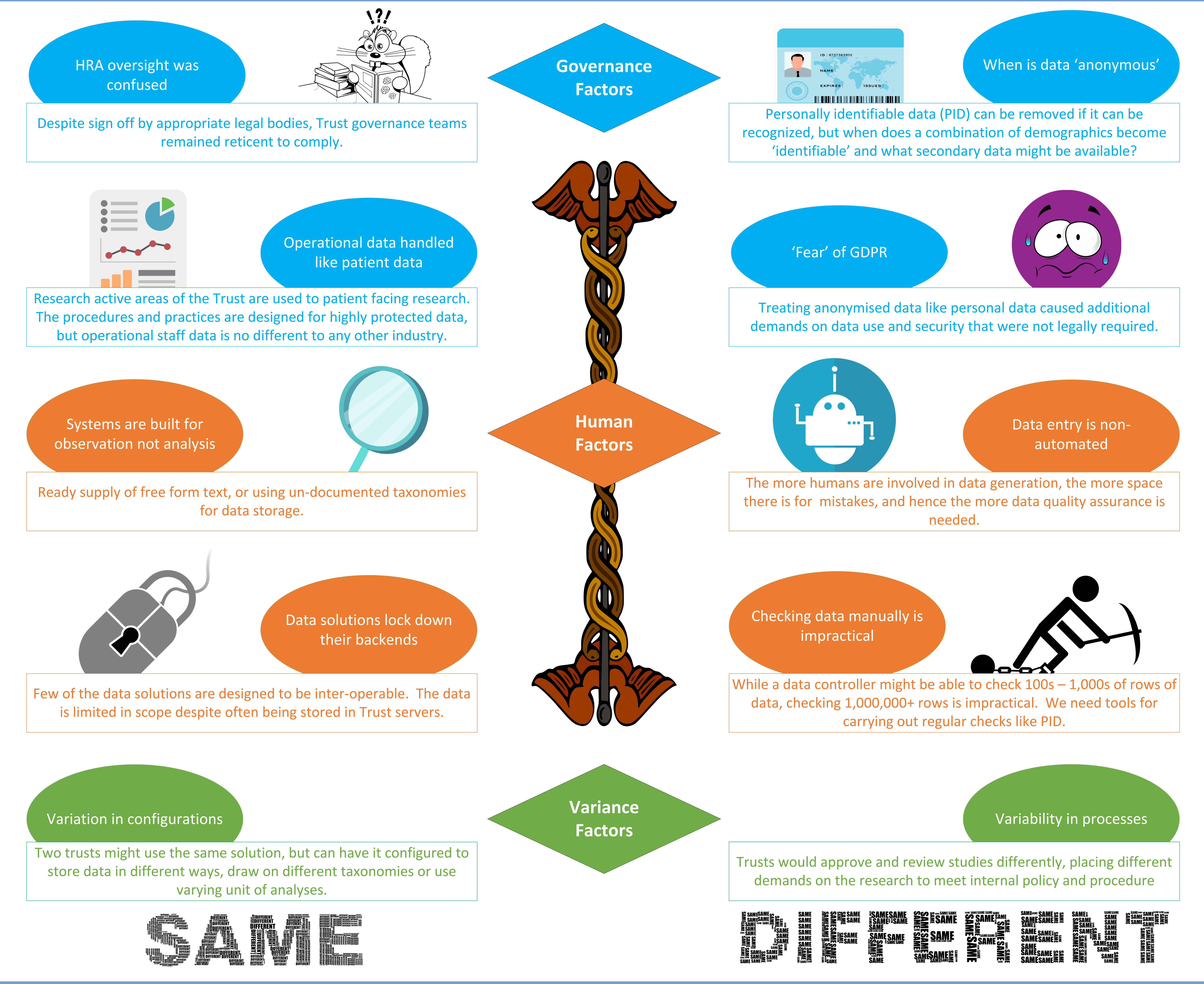
The NuRS project ran across 8 years, and drew on data from five NHS Trusts spanning Acute, Mental Health, Community and Emergency care. Here we document the top level learning from engaging a wide breadth of Trusts around their digital solutions, and hope to provide guidance of where health care providers face challenges.

Background

In England, individual healthcare providers collect, manage and store their own patient and staff data. Some of this data is collected via a nationally procured software^{1,2} or a software that a lot of other organisations use. This routinely collected data is not often accessed at the local level and analysed at scale using modern analytical techniques. We proposed to access local, anonymised data from multiple organisations to explore staff retention and things that impact on safety.

To do this as part of a research project, approval from the Health Research Authority was needed. There were significant challenges to doing this. We outline some of those here.

Results



Conclussions

Taking data from trusts to be able to explore relationships and a more local level presents challenges. The amount of resource required to get the approvals in place, negotiate access and undertake the transfer is disproportionate to the time spent analysing but yields beneficial outputs. More work is needed to explore the utility of this data for analysis in-house, removing some of the barriers and challenges experienced here.

Acknowledgments

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References

¹"Introduction to ESR" URL: <https://my.esr.nhs.uk/dashboard/web/esrweb/introduction-to-esr> (Accessed August 2024)
²"Allocate" URL: <https://www.allocatesoftware.com/> (Accessed August 2024)

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