Registration Authority Newsletter - June 2025

<u>Urgent: Oberthur Middleware Software Installation– Action required</u>

From July 2025, all machines using Series 8 smartcards to sign Electronic Prescriptions must have Oberthur middleware installed. NHSE recommend all machines, in all care settings, used for smartcard authentication have the Oberthur middleware deployed. Supplier migration to SHA256 prescription signing is expected to begin at the end of June 2025.

Failure to roll out Oberthur middleware to machines used for signing prescriptions by the end of June 2025 may result in some users not being able to sign prescriptions.

NEL ICB IT managed systems deployment will start from Monday 9th June 2025. Please ensure all desktops and laptops are left on in the evening for the software to install. Any device not left on will be updated during operational hours starting Monday 23rd June 2025.

If your site has already been upgraded to Windows 11 then all your desktops will already have the relevant software installed. It is however likely that most laptops will still need to be done.

<u>Impact to service</u>

Impact to services is expected to be minimal, but a device updated during operational hours will need to be restarted following the update for Smartcard functions to work.

<u>How to check If your machine needs updating</u>

Go to the Start menu and check; It shows up in Start Menu as "AWP Identity Manager"

<u>Help Pages</u>

Read about ***Oberthur middleware and how to install it***. If you are having issues with Oberthur Installation, you should raise it directly with the National Service Desk by emailing ***ssd.nationalservicedesk@nhs.net***.

New Advice and Guidance Enhanced Service:

The service went live on 30 April and practices must sign up by 27 May. RA are to ensure responsible practice staff have access to the enhanced reporting on the NHS e-Referral Service (e-RS).   Work is ongoing to create a new position in all GP practices and assign smartcard access to relevant staff. Practice managers to log the request via IT service desk.

Directory of Services (DoS) Update

The Directory of Services (DoS) is moving to NHS Care Identity Service 2 (CIS2) as its primary method of authentication. This will replace the existing username-based login. All users must complete this transition by 30 June 2025, after which username-based access will no longer be supported. Relevant NEL staff to log the request via IT service desk.

Moving from CIS1 Identity Agent to CIS2 Smartcard Connect

NHS CIS1 Identity Agent will no longer be supported from September 2026, and all organisations will need to use NHS CIS2 Smartcard Connect from that date. As of November 2024, there are no planned or anticipated additional functionality or fixes to any of the NHS CIS1 Identity Agent versions currently supported.

The following NHS Identity Agent versions (including all previous versions) are deprecated, meaning they will no longer be supported and are expected to be retired from September 2026:

- v2.4.5.0
- v2.4.6.0
- v2.3.2.0

NHS CIS2 Smartcard Connect is available now and should be used by all organisations that no longer have a dependency on CIS1 Authentication. IT teams should ensure that users who prefer to use an NHS-issued smartcard have NHS CIS2 Smartcard Connect and NHS Credential Management installed. NHS CIS2 Smartcard Connect is not required for users who rely on non-smartcard authenticators.

Key Changes for Users

NHS CIS2 Authentication strengthens security practices in local organisations by requiring applications to ensure authenticated sessions are terminated. These security standards introduce changes to the ways in which users authenticate using NHS CIS2 Smartcard Connect.

Users of NHS CIS2 Smartcard Connect may notice that:

- removing the smartcard no longer terminates an authenticated session - applications using NHS CIS2 Authentication will introduce changes to ensure that users are logged out after periods of inactivity
- users may be asked to authenticate more than once throughout a working day - in line with OIDC standards, we are introducing changes to ensure that patient data remains protected, which may mean that users authenticate more frequently

Series 4, 5 and 6 smartcards are due to be deprecated; Most NEL ICB clinician's smartcard now updated. Please log a call to replace these older series smartcards as soon as possible. Contact the NEL ICB Registration Authority by email - itservicedesk.nelicb@nhs.net (stating the smartcard information, your email and a return address) to order a replacement smartcard.

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