



What is an Integrated Care System?

Integrated Care Systems (ICS) are the future of healthcare. An ICS allows true multi-agency care, seamlessly coordinating multiple different disciplines and specialties. An ICS allows for smoother interaction between primary and secondary care. GPs and hospitals, mental health services, medical and surgical specialties will all fall under a regional ICS to deliver joined-up care.

For seamless, integrated care, an ICS is a multi-agency approach to health and social care without the traditional boundaries between different care providers and authorities. People who access care commonly experience delays, repetition, and a fragmented experience of provision. With an ICS, closer collaboration across health and social care organisations means patient-centred, coordinated care.



Integrated Care Systems – for Public Health

Better collaboration between health and social care agencies supports life, health, and wellbeing at national, local, and individual levels. With a joined-up regional approach to the needs of a population, health inequality and complex social needs can be effectively addressed.

Integrated Care Systems – for Individualised Care

Each ICS has a three-tier system of governance, ensuring that planning and decisions are taken by the people best-suited to meeting the needs of the population.



System

Decision-making across the geographical footprint of the ICS, managing allocation of resources, infrastructure, and strategy.



Place

Integrating care pathways across local services, facilitating multidisciplinary, inter-agency working across NHS, voluntary, community, social care, and the local authority. Decision making for a Place within an ICS structure will be based on community needs.



Neighbourhood

Driven by the needs of the local population, facilitated mainly within primary care using a multidisciplinary model for seamless care provision.

Integrated Care Systems - NHS England

42 regional ICSs now cover every area of England, with an average population of just over 1 million people.

Within each region, the ICS will be responsible for meeting the health and social care needs of their specific population, with emphasis on seamless multi-agency provision.



Integrated Care Systems – for Care Providers

Each ICS will be a collaboration between the people providing and facilitating services to the public. NHS trusts covering primary, secondary, and tertiary care; community and voluntary services; social care providers, housing and local authorities can deliver essential services with full interoperability between agencies.



Integrated Care Systems – for the Individual

The people at the centre of the service – the individuals receiving care or support – will have an improved experience, with no need for repetition, lengthy referrals processes, or disjointed interaction between agencies. Seamless communication between organisations means better quality of care provision, a better experience, and better personal and public health and wellbeing.