# Using patient data is vital to improve health and care for everyone

There is huge potential to make better use of information from people's patient records. Data is vital for your individual care, and to improve health, care and services across the NHS. The information can be used to help understand more about disease, develop new treatments, monitor safety, plan NHS services and evaluate policies.

## Examples:

### Individual care
- Making sure your whole care team, from GP to hospital to care home, has up-to-date information to help give the best and safest care
- Helping people to manage their condition, from psychosis to asthma, using smart phone apps

### Understanding disease
- Exploring why diabetes rates vary between ethnic groups
- Finding out about the biological changes involved in Parkinson's

### Evaluating policy
- Comparing cancer survival rates between countries
- Showing the impact of a smoking ban on reducing premature births

### Planning NHS services
- Finding out how many people have arthritis to inform planning
- Improving the delivery of kidney dialysis services
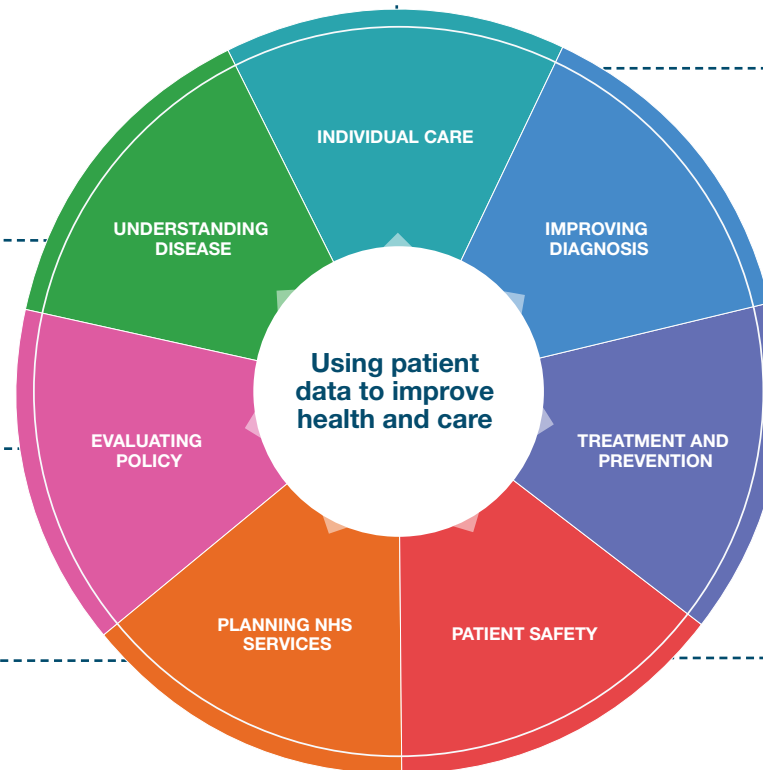
### Diagnosis
- Demonstrating that bowel cancer screening is effective
- Finding new ways to identify early warning signs of dementia

### Treatment and prevention
- Testing a treatment for lung disease in the real world
- Investigating the benefits of giving statins to men who haven't had a heart attack

### Patient safety
- Monitoring the safety of whooping cough vaccination during pregnancy
- Checking the safety of hip replacements



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INDIVIDUAL CARE

IMPROVING DIAGNOSIS

TREATMENT AND PREVENTION

PATIENT SAFETY

PLANNING NHS SERVICES

EVALUATING POLICY

UNDERSTANDING DISEASE