Planning a health data application - questions and information sources

1. **Project idea**
   - What are the specific questions I want to answer?
   - How will my project benefit the public?
   - How will I consult with patients and the public?

2. **Define the purpose of your project**
   - How can I use data least able to identify an individual but that will still meet the needs of my project?
   - What data sources could I use?
   - How can I best design my flows and linkages?
   - Would a discussion with the data custodian help?

3. **Scope the data you need**
   - What are the specific questions I want to answer?
   - How will my project benefit the public?
   - How will I consult with patients and the public?

4. **Identify your legal obligations**
   - How can I apply for the permissions and approvals I need?
   - Data Protection Act 2018 / UK GDPR
   - Duty of Confidentiality

5. **Meet your legal obligations**
   - How can I use data least able to identify an individual but that will still meet the needs of my project?
   - What data sources could I use?
   - How can I best design my flows and linkages?
   - Would a discussion with the data custodian help?

6. **Make your data application**
   - Where do I make my data application?

**Useful Links and Tools**

- HRA - public involvement
- NIHR - Involve patients
- ICO - data minimisation
- NSHD - data minimisation
- HDR UK Innovation Gateway
- HDR UK Data Utility Framework
- HDR UK Clinical Trials Toolkit
- MRC BSC Experimental Medicine Toolkit
- HRA decision tool for research ethics
- HRA decision tool for research ethics
- MRC BSC Health Data Access Toolkit
- IRAS physician guide
- MRC BSC animation
- GDPR: Likely lawful basis for research
- Applying to (CAD) the Confidentiality Advisory Group
- NHSX Consent
- UHDA Duty of Confidentiality
- NHS Digital Data Access Request Service (DARAS)
- HDR UK gateway for index of other custodians

**Other key websites**
- MRC Regulatory Support Centre
- NHS X Information Governance Portal
- NIHR Research Design Service
- MRC - UK data protection law and the common law duty of confidentiality
- UHDA Resources

**Understanding Health Data Access #UHDA**

Thinking through questions in the right order will help put you on the path to success.