

1<sup>st</sup> April 2020

**VASS Checks 50172, 50609 (APC), 51236 and 51611 (OP) amended  
Invalid Principal Procedure Code, Inconsistent Sex vs. Primary Procedure  
Code, Invalid Primary Procedure Code and Inconsistent Primary Procedure  
Code (OPCS) vs. Sex**

OPCS-4 is the Office of Population, Censuses and Surveys Classification of Surgical Operations and Procedures (OPCS) (4th revision). This statistical classification translates into code, operations and surgical procedures that can be carried out on a patient during an episode of health care.

From 1st April 2017 until 31st March 2020, the valid version of OPCS was version 4.8.

On 8th October 2019 NHS Digital published Information Standards Notice DCB0084 Amd18/2019, to mandate OPCS v4.9 from 1st April 2020 in NHS England. This implementation timescale is endorsed by the Welsh Information Standards Board for NHS Wales and mandated in [DSCN 2020 / 04](#) for NHS Wales.

Version 4.9 was published by the Clinical Classifications Service of NHS Digital and was introduced across NHS Wales on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014.

The following Admitted Patient Care (APC) VASS checks have been updated to reflect the introduction of OPCS 4.9:

- 50172: Invalid Principal Procedure Code
- 50609: Inconsistent Sex vs. Primary Procedure Code

The following Outpatient (OP) VASS checks have been updated to reflect the introduction of OPCS 4.9:

- 51236: Invalid Primary Procedure Code
- 51611: Inconsistent Primary Procedure Code (OPCS) vs. Sex