



19th May 2023

VASS Checks 50114 and 50612 decommissioned (APC) Legal Status and Legal Status vs. Specialty (of Treatment)

[DSCN 2022 / 57](#) instructed the retirement of data item Legal Status from the Admitted Patient Care data set, along with the retirement of the following VASS checks:

- 50114: Invalid Legal Status
- 50612: Inconsistent Legal Status vs. Specialty (of Treatment)

The logic behind the Legal Status check looked at whether a valid value had been submitted, as defined by the Data Dictionary, with any blank submissions being flagged as invalid.

The logic behind the Legal Status vs. Specialty (of Treatment) check inspected whether the two data items were consistent with one another. Where the Specialty (of Treatment) was psychiatry (i.e., 700, 710, 711, 712, 713 or 715), the Legal Status must have been a valid value other than 98 (Non applicable (only used for NON psychiatric consultant specialties)).

Issues had previously been raised regarding the variation between the English and Welsh Legal Status standard values, along with needing clarity on reporting of the value in APC. The issues were investigated via the IQI working group, and analysis of usage of the data item showed that the majority of Health Boards were not utilising the full list of values. After confirmation that the information was not currently used for any national and local reporting and upon receiving written confirmation from all Health Boards that they were happy for the data item to be retired, approval was granted from WG.

These checks were decommissioned as of 1st January 2023 and removed from the Admitted Patient Care validity and consistency reports from March 2023 onwards.