

WELSH INFORMATION STANDARDS BOARD

DSC Notice:	DSCN 2024 /11 (AMD)
Date of Issue:	4 th March 2025

Welsh Health Circular/Official Letter: None	Subject: Planned Care Referrals Data Set (AMD)
Sponsor: Lesley Law, Delivery & Performance Division, Welsh Government	
Standard Type: Secondary Use	
Implementation Date: 1 st April 2025	
DATA STANDARDS CHANGE NOTICE	
<p>A Data Standards Change Notice (DSCN) is an information mandate for a new or revised information standard.</p> <p>This DSCN was approved by the Welsh Information Standards Board (WISB) at its meeting on Thursday 20th February 2025.</p> <p>WISB Reference: ISRN 2024 / 001</p>	
<p>Summary: The revision of the Outpatient Referrals data set to capture the national data requirements outlined as part of the modernisation of the Outpatient work programme.</p>	
<p>Data sets / returns affected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outpatient Referrals Data Set - Outpatient Data Set 	
<p>Please address enquiries about this Data Standards Change Notice to the Data Standards Team in Digital Health and Care Wales</p> <p>E-mail: data.standards@wales.nhs.uk</p>	
<p>The Welsh Information Standards Board is responsible for appraising information standards. Submission documents and WISB Outcomes relating to the approval of this standard can be found at:</p> <p>https://nhs.wales365.sharepoint.com/sites/DHC_DST/Lists/Information%20Standards%20Assurance%20Submission%20Log/AllItems.aspx</p>	

DATA STANDARDS CHANGE NOTICE

Introduction

The existing Outpatient and Outpatient Referral Data Sets were introduced in 1999 and 2008 respectively. These are no longer fit for purpose and require transformation to record and collect outpatient information that accurately represents new ways of working and outcomes identified in the [Outpatient strategy 2023-26](#). In recent years there has also been an increase in the collection of aggregate data through electronic pro-forma directly from health boards/trusts to Welsh Government. Richer patient level outpatient information would enable DHCW to apply national methodology to generate this aggregate data thereby ensuring consistency of approach. Consequently, this plan covers elements relating to the development of the Data Set, reporting requirements, analysis methodologies and data quality.

Since the creation of the MODS Working Group in June 2023, it was recommended within these meetings that this work be split into the following datasets to allow for manageable and effective monthly submissions:

- Referrals
- Outpatient Activity
- New Outpatient Waiting List
- Follow Up Outpatient Waiting List

These data sets will allow the information standards development to be split into 4 phases which have been outlined below and will allow for the agreed data requirements to be captured.

This DSCN reflects the changes required for phase 1 of the modernisation work and requires changes to the existing Outpatient Referral data set.

Description of Change

The revision of the existing Outpatient Referrals data set to capture the national data requirements outlined as part of the modernisation of the Outpatient work programme.

The change to the national data set requires the following:

- Data set name change from Outpatients Referrals to Planned Care Referrals to encompass the change in scope.
- Changes to existing data item values to incorporate required data requirements.
- The addition of new data items to capture required data which is currently not included in the national submissions.

Data Dictionary Version

Where applicable, this DSCN reflects changes introduced by DSCN and/or DDCN since the release of version 4.23 of the NHS Wales Data Dictionary.

The changes introduced by such DSCNs will be published in version 4.25 of the NHS Wales Data Dictionary.

Actions Required

Local Health Boards:

- Ensure that local processes and systems have been updated to comply with the standard set out within this DSCN.

Digital Health & Care Wales:

- Ensure that all national systems have been updated to comply with the standard set out within this DSCN.
- Ensure all validation checks are updated and continuously maintained in accordance to comply with the standard set out within this DSCN.

Appendix A: Table reflecting areas that are impacted as a result of this DSCN

The following table shows where there are changes to the scope and/or definitions of applicable data sets, data items, terms and other associated areas that are linked with the changes documented within this DSCN.

Each data definition type is listed in alphabetical order and is shown in the sequence in which it appears in this DSCN.

Data Definition Type	Name	New/Retired/Changed	Page Number
Data Set Structure	Planned Care Referral Dataset	Changed	5
Data Item	Source of Referral: Outpatients	Changed	7
Data Item	Outcome of Triage	Changed	10

Appendix B: Highlighted changes to be made to the NHS Wales Data Dictionary

Changes to the NHS Wales Data Dictionary are detailed below, with new text being highlighted in **blue** and deletions are shown with a ~~strikethrough~~. The text shaded in **grey** shows existing text copied from the NHS Wales Data Dictionary.

Planned Care Referral Data Set

Scope

The Planned Care Referral (PCR) Data Set captures all referrals received by NHS Wales' provider organisations for the following service requests:

- Request for Advice
- Request for Investigation
- Request for Treatment

This includes all consultant/nurse and non-consultant led clinic activity¹. In addition, any Consultant-to-Consultant referrals when a patient is starting a new Outpatient pathway under a different specialty. All Fracture and Urgent Eye Clinics should be included within both the Planned Care Referral and Outpatient Activity data sets.

The data set includes referrals from any source and is not limited to only those referrals made by Primary Care.

Currently the dataset captures referrals outside of the RTT dataset, namely Mental Health and Maternity including obstetrics. As new datasets are developed it is anticipated that these will be removed to be reported under the dedicated minimum datasets. All diagnostic and therapy referrals will continue to be captured as a source of monitoring potential alternative planned care pathways (this can be reviewed as other developments occur around this area).

¹ An independent practitioner who is responsible and accountable for the assessment of patients with undiagnosed or diagnosed conditions and can make clinical decisions without supervision to manage the clinical condition of the patient. These are medical professionals who have the autonomy to make a clinical decision to move the patient onto the next stage of their pathway.

Data Set Structure

Valid From: 1st June 2008

Rating 1=mandatory 2=optional		Format/Length
1	Record ID	an1
	CONTRACT DETAILS	
1	Organisation Code (Code of Provider)	an5
	PATIENT DETAILS	
1	Local Patient Identifier	an10

1	NHS Number	n10
1	NHS Number Status Indicator	n2
1	Code of Registered GP Practice	an6
1	Ethnic Group	an2
1	Patient's name	an70 or structured name with 2 an35 elements
1	Name Format Code	n1
1	Birth Date	ccyymmdd
1	Birth Date Status	n1
1	Sex	n1
1	Patient's Usual address	an175 (5 lines each an35)
1	Postcode of Usual Address	an8
1	Organisation Code (LHB Area of Residence)	an3
	REFERRAL DETAILS	
1	Source of Referral: Outpatients	an2
1	Referring Organisation Code	an6
1	Service Type Requested	n1
1	Referrer Code	an8
1	Administrative Category	n2
1	Date of Patient Referral	ccyymmdd
1	Patient Referral Date Status	n1
1	Clinical Referral Date	ccyymmdd
1	Clinical Referral Date Status	n1
1	Main Specialty (consultant)	n3
1	Referrer Priority Type	n1
1	Outcome of Triage	n2
1	Date of Triage	ccyymmdd
2	Reason for Referral	an8
1	Referral Identifier	an12
1	Treatment Function Code	n3

Data Item

Source of Referral: Outpatients

This data item is / was included in the following data sets / collections between the dates shown:

Data Set / Collection	Valid From	Valid To
OP ds	1 st April 1999	
PCR ds	1 st July 2008	

This is a classification which is used to identify the source of referral of each Outpatient Episode or Outpatient Referral.

Format: 2-character alpha-numeric

Value	Meaning	Valid From	Valid To
Initiated by the Consultant or Independent Nurse responsible for the Outpatient episode			
01	Following an emergency admission	1 st April 1999	
02	Following a domiciliary visit	1 st April 1999	
10	Following an A&E attendance	1 st April 1999	
11	Other	1 st April 1999	
Not initiated by the Consultant or Independent Nurse responsible for the Outpatient episode			
03	Referral from General Medical Practitioner	1 st April 1999	
04	Referral from an A&E department	1 st April 1999	
05	Referral from a Consultant or Independent Nurse, other than in an A&E department	1 st April 1999	
06	Self-referral	1 st April 1999	
07	Referral from Prosthetist	1 st April 1999	30th September 2024
08	Other source of referral	1 st April 1999	
12	Referral from an Allied Health Professional	1st October 2024	
13	Referral from a national screening programme	1st October 2024	
14	Referral from a Health Care Scientist	1st October 2024	
15	Referral from Optometrist	1 st October 2014	
92	General Dental Practitioner	1 st April 1999	
93	Community Dental Service	1 st April 1999	

Note: The classification has been listed in logical sequence rather than numeric order. Please refer to Appendix C and D for full list of Health Professionals to be included under values 12 and 14. Please refer to the table below for the complete list of Health Professionals to be included under values 12 and 14.

Appendix C

List of Health Professionals that should be included under Source of Referral value for Allied Health Professionals:

- Arts Therapists
- Drama Therapists
- Music Therapists
- Biomedical Scientist
- Chiropodist
- Clinical scientists
- Dietitian
- Hearing dispenser
- Occupational therapists
- Operating department practitioner
- Orthotist
- Orthoptist
- Podiatrist
- Paramedic
- Physiotherapist
- Practitioner psychologist
- Prosthetist
- Speech and language therapist

Appendix D

List of Health Professionals that should be included under Source of Referral value for Health Care Scientist:

- Audiologist
- Biomedical Scientist
- Biomedical Scientist Specialist
- Lab Assistant
- Pharmacist
- Pharmacist Specialist
- Pharmacy Technician
- Phlebotomist

A list of Health Professionals that should be included under Source of Referral value, separated into Allied Health Professionals and Health Care Scientists:

Professional Type	Valid From	Valid To
Allied Health Professionals:		
Arts Therapists	1 st April 2025	
Dietitians	1 st April 2025	
Drama Therapists	1 st April 2025	
Music Therapists	1 st April 2025	
Occupational Therapists	1 st April 2025	
Orthoptists	1 st April 2025	
Orthotists	1 st April 2025	
Paramedics	1 st April 2025	

Physiotherapists	1 st April 2025	
Podiatrists	1 st April 2025	
Prosthetists	1 st April 2025	
Psychologists	1 st April 2025	
Speech and Language Therapists	1 st April 2025	
Health Care Scientist:		
Audiologist	1 st April 2025	
Biomedical Scientist	1 st April 2025	
Biomedical Scientist Specialist	1 st April 2025	
Chiropodist	1 st April 2025	
Clinical Scientists	1 st April 2025	
Hearing Dispenser	1 st April 2025	
Operating Department Practitioner	1 st April 2025	
Pharmacist	1 st April 2025	
Pharmacist Specialist	1 st April 2025	

Service Type Requested

This data item is / was included in the following data sets / collections between the dates shown:

Data Set / Collection	Valid From	Valid To
OP ds	1 st April 1999	
PCR ds	1 st July 2008	

The terms of reference for the referral request.

Format: 1 digit numeric

Value	Meaning	Valid From	Valid To
1	Advice/Consultation	1 st April 1999	30th September 2024
2	Specific procedure	1 st April 1999	30th September 2024
3	Other	1 st April 1999	30th September 2024
4	Request for Advice	1 st October 2024	

5	Request for Investigation	1 st October 2024	
6	Request for Treatment	1 st October 2024	

Referrer Priority Type

This data item is / was included in the following data sets / collections between the dates shown:

Data Set / Collection	Valid From	Valid To
PCR ds	1 st July 2008	

This is the Referrer's assessment of the priority of a request for services. The value may be obtained from the text in the referral notification and is unaffected by the priority as assessed by the Consultant or Independent Nurse responsible for the outpatient appointment on review of the referral notification.

Format: 1 digit numeric

Value	Meaning	Valid From	Valid To
1	Routine	1 st July 2008	
2	Urgent	1 st July 2008	
3	Suspected Cancer	1 st October 2024	

Note: If a patient self-refers, this field should be populated with the default value of 1.

The 'routine' value is to be utilized as a default if no urgency or clinical priority is included within the referral notification. Where an urgency or clinical priority is included 'urgency' can be defined as per the extant guidance.

Outcome of Triage

This data item is / was included in the following data sets / collections between the dates shown:

Data Set / Collection	Valid From	Valid To
PCR ds	1 st October 2024	

This is the outcome of the referral once it has been reviewed by a clinician to outline the next stage of the patient's pathway.

Format: 2 digit numeric

Value	Meaning	Definition	Valid From	Valid To
01	Returned with Advice	Documented written advice which is sent to the original referrer and documented in the patients record.	1 st October 2024	
02	Straight to Test	Includes any imaging, endoscopy or blood tests and pathway specific testing such as Teledermoscopy.	1 st October 2024	
03	Consultation	Patient review, face to face or virtual (individual or group).	1 st October 2024	
04	Straight to Procedure	Patient added to treatment waiting list.	1 st October 2024	

Date of Triage

This data item is / was included in the following data sets / collections between the dates shown:

Data Set / Collection	Valid From	Valid To
PCR ds	1 st October 2024	

This is the date on which the clinician reviewed the referral and determines the next stage of the patient's pathway.

Format: 8 digit numeric, ccyymmdd

Reason for Referral

This data item is / was included in the following data sets / collections between the dates shown:

Data Set / Collection	Valid From	Valid To
PCR ds	1 st July 2008	

The reason(s) for the patient requiring involvement with care professionals. These may include any problem, issue or event affecting the patient's health and/ or well being.

The information held within this data item must be a valid clinical code or term.

Format: 8 character alpha-numeric

Left justified and padded with spaces.