

## WELSH INFORMATION STANDARDS BOARD

<b>DSC Notice:</b>	DSCN 2022 / 76 (AMD)
<b>Date of Issue:</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2025

<p><b>Welsh Health Circular/Official Letter:</b> WHC/2023/018 Related WHCs: WHC/2015/53; WHC/2024/042</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> Medicines, Allergies, and Intolerances Interoperability Standards (AMD)</p>
<p><b>Sponsor:</b> Digital Medicines Transformation Portfolio (DMTP)</p>	
<p><b>Implementation Date:</b> 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022 (Systems in procurement or for future procurement).  31<sup>st</sup> July 2024 (Legacy systems or recently procured systems that are not yet operational).</p>	
<p><b>DATA STANDARDS CHANGE NOTICE</b></p> <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 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025.</p> <p><b>WISB Reference:</b> ISRN 2022 / 022</p>	
<p><b>Summary:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updated the <i>Welsh Health Circular/Official Letter</i> section of the standard to refer to related WHCs for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction of SNOMED CT as an NHS information standard (WHC/2015/53)</li> <li>Introduction of the dictionary of medicines and devices (dm+d) (WHC/2024/042)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Removed reference to the Digital Medicines Transformation Portfolio (DMTP) given its disbandment in 2024, and to more accurately reflect the management of its work areas as separate Digital Medicines Programmes.</li> <li>Where relevant, replaced references to HL7 FHIR UK Core with Wales FHIR equivalent.</li> <li>Updated the dm+d Description in the <i>Description of Change</i> section to include additional text that aligns with WHC/2024/042 – Introduction of the dictionary of medicines and devices</li> <li>Updated the <i>Scope</i> section to list Choose Pharmacy as an example of pharmacy care locations, noting that this was not a change that warranted further engagement since Choose Pharmacy already met the definition of services within the scope of the standard, and the list of care locations in the DSCN is already qualified with a statement that it is not an exhaustive list.</li> </ol>	

**Data sets / returns affected:**

[DSCN 2022 / 76 - Medicines, Allergies, and Intolerances Interoperability Standards \(AMD\)](#).

Please address enquiries about this Data Standards Change Notice to the Data Standards Team in Digital Health and Care Wales

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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:

[https://nhswales365.sharepoint.com/sites/DHC\\_DST/Lists/Information%20Standards%20Assurance%20Submission%20Log/AllItems.aspx](https://nhswales365.sharepoint.com/sites/DHC_DST/Lists/Information%20Standards%20Assurance%20Submission%20Log/AllItems.aspx)

## DATA STANDARDS CHANGE NOTICE

### Introduction

This standard supports the vision of the Digital Medicines Programmes in making the prescribing, transcribing, dispensing and administration of medicines everywhere in Wales, easier, safer, more efficient, and effective for patients and professionals, through the use of digital systems and services.

The Digital Medicines Programmes include four areas of work, all of which have connections with each other:

- Electronic Prescription Service (EPS) - Delivering electronic prescriptions from GP practices to a pharmacy or dispenser of a patient's choice without the need for a paper form.
- Electronic Prescribing and Medicines Administration (ePMA) - Implementing new digital systems, which will replace paper medicine charts and prescriptions, in every ward in every hospital in NHS Wales.
- Patient Access - Using the NHS Wales App to share and collect medicines and allergy information, order repeat prescriptions and nominate a person's pharmacy of choice to receive a prescription digitally from their GP practice.
- Shared Medicines Record (SMR) - Building a single, consolidated shared record of medicines, allergies and intolerances for every patient in Wales so that all the information is in one place.

It is acknowledged that medicines, allergy, and intolerance information have a very wide potential scope of use. This standard is motivated by the Digital Medicines Programmes context, without prejudice to other uses of the FHIR® Resources cited.

### Description of Change

This standard sets out the definitions that are to be used when patient medicines, allergies, and intolerances information is recorded, sent, received, or shared between trusted applications and systems, and across health care settings. It is needed to ensure this information is machine-readable and computable so it can be exchanged and shared seamlessly and consistently to make relevant health information available at the point of care; allowing medicines, allergies, and intolerances information to follow the patient wherever care is provided.

To achieve this aim, the technical standards published in support of this DSCN are based on HL7® FHIR® UK Core<sup>1</sup> as referenced in the Wales FHIR® Implementation Guide, together with established coding terminologies including the Dictionary of Medicines and Devices (dm+d) and SNOMED CT (UK Edition), alongside Welsh Reference Data.

<sup>1</sup> Regular review of HL7® FHIR® UK Core development will be undertaken by the NHS Wales FHIR Standards Development Service and changes managed in accordance with the relevant process.

Consequently the standards for adoption are as follows:

**Table 1:** Standards to be adopted

Standard	Description
NHS Wales FHIR® Standards	Defines FHIR® resources for Wales implementation. The NHS Wales FHIR® standards are based on HL7® FHIR® UK Core
dm+d	Provides unique identifiers, standardised descriptions and metadata for therapeutic moieties, medicinal products and devices, including their forms, strengths and routes. It enables interoperability, allowing IT systems to easily and safely exchange medicines data.
SNOMED CT UK Edition	Enables identification of dosage instructions (dose syntax), allergies, intolerances, and indications

The fundamental status of these standards for interoperability is demonstrated by the release of separate Welsh Health Circulars (WHCs):

- WHC 2015/053 – Introduction of SNOMED CT as an NHS information standard
- WHC 2023/018 – Introduction of HL7 FHIR as a foundational standard in all NHS Wales Bodies
- WHC 2024/042 – Introduction of the dictionary of medicines and devices

[Appendix A](#) provides further information on these supporting standards.

### Data Dictionary Version

Where applicable, this DSCN reflects changes introduced by DSCN and/or DDCN since the release of version 4.24 of the NHS Wales Data Dictionary.

The changes introduced by such DSCN and/or DDCN will be published in version 4.26 of the NHS Wales Data Dictionary.

### Actions Required

#### NHS Wales Organisations

- Ensure that any systems in procurement or for future procurement (e.g., electronic Prescribing and Medicines Administration (ePMA) systems), adhere to this Standard and factor it into the procurement process from **1<sup>st</sup> November 2022**.
- Ensure that the contracts they put in place with suppliers address the implications of the supplier's solution meeting compliance criteria based on -this Standard.
- Assess the impact of this standard and plan to achieve implementation by **31<sup>st</sup> July 2024** for all remaining Information Technology/digital systems and applications (legacy or recently procured but not yet operational) which enable patient medicines, allergies, and intolerances information to be recorded, sent, received, or shared between care locations.

## Digital Health and Care Wales

- Ensures that any systems in procurement, or for future procurement, adhere to this Standard and factor it into the procurement process from **1<sup>st</sup> November 2022**.
- Ensures that the contracts it puts in place with suppliers address the implications of the supplier's solution meeting compliance criteria based on this Standard.
- Assess the impact of this standard and plan to achieve implementation by **31<sup>st</sup> July 2024** for all remaining Information Technology/digital systems and applications (legacy or recently procured but not yet operational) which enable patient medicines, allergies, and intolerances information to be recorded, sent, received, or shared between care locations.
- Engage with WTSB to draft a change management process for the Technical Standards supporting this standard.
- Draft and publish complementary compliance documentation.

## Appendix A: 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

### Scope

The technical specifications (e.g., **Application Programming Interfaces (APIs)** definitions) that will be developed using this standard will impact all locations where a health professional sends or receives patient medicines, allergies, and intolerances information by computer system, such as communications supporting prescribing, dispensing, or administering medicines, and communications between care locations. These locations include but are not limited to:

Services	Care Locations
Secondary care	Hospitals (acute, specialist, mental health), ambulance service
Primary Care	GP Practices, GP out of hours, 111, dentists, ophthalmology, vaccination centres, Directory of Service (DoS)
Pharmacy	Community pharmacy ( <b>including Choose Pharmacy services</b> ), distance selling (internet pharmacies), hospital inpatient pharmacy, hospital outpatient pharmacy, hospital outsourced pharmacy, Homecare, NHS Business Services Authority, NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership (NWSSP), Transforming Access to Medicines (TRAMS)
Community Services	District nursing, community midwives, health visitors, school nursing, physiotherapy, podiatry, occupational therapy, sexual health, optometrists, dental
Shared Care Records	Local health and care records, integrated care systems, consolidated medication records, summary care record, patient apps
Health and Justice	Prisons, police custody suites, juvenile detention centres, courts, immigration removal centres
Other	Social care, mental health services, drug and alcohol services, nursing and residential care, private care delivering via NHS contracts, hospices

The table above illustrates how this standard will impact all suppliers of Information Technology/digital systems and applications that send or receive patient medicines and associated allergies and intolerances information to enable users to prescribe, transcribe, dispense, or administer medicines in the above locations. These suppliers should work with their customers to determine the necessary changes required to adhere to this standard.

## Information Specification

The technical standards, defining the exchange of medicines, allergies, and intolerances data, are published within the Wales FHIR® Implementation Guide. These standards are defined as sets of FHIR® Profiles for medications, allergies, and intolerances, which are provided along with example FHIR® Resources which illustrate and aid understanding of the standards.

The latest version of the Wales FHIR® Implementation Guide should be accessed via the **Version History** page (<https://simplifier.net/guide/wales-fhir-implementation-guide-version-history>). Specific guidance for Allergy and Medication is accessible via the **Home** page of the Wales FHIR® Implementation Guide<sup>2</sup>.

The NHS Wales FHIR® standards are derived from the latest release of HL7® FHIR® UK Core which provides additional specification and guidance for use of HL7® FHIR® within the four UK nations. These standards have been subject to the HL7® UK ballot process.

In addition, the standard also utilises codes from the SNOMED CT UK Edition (<https://termbrowser.nhs.uk/>) and Dictionary of Medicines and Devices (dm+d) (<https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/dictionary-medicines-and-devices-dmd>).

Further technical standards in support of this DSCN are expected to be developed and published through the relevant assurance processes as the DMTP progresses. These changes will be managed in accordance with the change management process referred to in the Action Required section of this DSCN.

<sup>2</sup> Some elements within the FHIR® Profiles for medications, allergies, and intolerances include resource references to FHIR® Profiles Data Standards Wales – Encounter, Location, Organization, Patient, Practitioner, and Practitioner Role. To view these Profiles please refer to the **Home** page of the latest version of the Wales FHIR® Implementation Guide.