

DSC Notice: 11/04 (W)
English DSCN Equivalent: 17/2003
Date of Issue: March 2004

IRSS Information Requirements and Standards Sub Committee	Subject: Data Standards: Legal Status code for 'Not applicable'
	Implementation date: 1 st April 2004

DATA SET CHANGE CONTROL PROCEDURE

This paper gives notification of changes to be included in the NHS Wales Data Dictionary.

Summary of change:

Introduction of a new Legal Status code of 'Not applicable'.

<i>Change Proposal Reference No:</i> <i>IRSS 04/03/03</i>
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The Information Requirements and Standards Sub Committee (IRSS), is responsible for approving information standards.

Please address enquiries about data set change proposals to the Data Standards and Information Quality Team, HSW, Brunel House, 2 Fitzalan Road, Cardiff CF24 0HA Tel: 029 20502539 or E-mail Data.Standards@hsw.wales.nhs.uk

Data Set Change Notices are available via the Intranet Service HOWIS <http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/> or by contacting the above address.

DSCN numbering format = sequence number/year of issue, (W) for Welsh DSCN's.

Change Proposal Reference No. format = year/month/sequence number (relates to when IRSS approved change)

DATA SET CHANGE NOTICE 11/04 (W)

Reference: IRSS 04/03/03

Subject: Legal Status code for 'Not applicable'

Reason for Change: To enable more accurate recording of patient information to satisfy data quality standards where patients do not fall into one of the existing categories of LEGAL STATUS, a code of 'Not applicable' has been included.

Effective Date: From 1st April 2004

Background:

Current validation rules make the data item `legal_status_classification_code` mandatory, irrespective of Specialty Function Codes. This has led to data inconsistencies between Legal Status Codes and Specialty Codes.

The NHS Wales Data Dictionary previously did not have the provision for 'Not applicable', but it did clearly state:

LEGAL STATUS: 'The classification is required for all patients who have a HOSPITAL PROVIDER SPELL which includes the care of a CONSULTANT in the psychiatric specialities or have been discharged from such a HOSPITAL PROVIDER SPELL and are required to receive supervised aftercare under the provisions of the Mental Health (Patients in the Community) Act 1995.'

To enable more accurate recording where the main speciality of a patient is a non-Psychiatric, the provision to record a LEGAL STATUS code of 'not applicable' has been introduced.

The NHSIA DSCN 17/2003 also refers to the introduction of the value '99 – Not Known'. This value is not used in Wales, as it is inappropriate if applied when the patient is detained under the Mental Health Act.

Detail of Change:

The NHS Wales Data Dictionary will be amended to add the value of '98' to the table of allowable values for the data item 'Legal Status'.

Implementation:

The new value of '98' for a Legal Status will be allowable from 1st April 2004.

The changes to the NHS Wales Data Dictionary will be made to version 2.4, which is currently planned for release on April 1st.

Effect on the Data Dictionary:

CHANGES

Change type: *Amend Data Item: Legal Status*

Add the following value to the table of values for **Legal Status:** -

Value	Meaning
98	Not applicable (only used for NON psychiatric consultant specialties)

***NOTE** (The NHSIA Data Dictionary refers to value '99 – Not Known'. This value is not used in Wales, as it is inappropriate if applied when the patient is detained under the Mental Health Act).

Additional Information:

For Data Standards queries please contact:

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