

WELSH INFORMATION STANDARDS BOARD

DSC Notice:	DSCN 2020 / 16
Date of Issue:	9 th September 2020

Ministerial / Official Letter: N/A	Subject: Admitted Patient Care Data Set – Weekly Submission and inclusion of Unfinished Episodes
Sponsor: Lesley Law - Head of Planned Care, Welsh Government	
Implementation Date: 22 nd September for first weekly submission	

DATA STANDARDS CHANGE NOTICE

A Data Standards Change Notice (DSCN) is an information mandate for a new or revised information standard.

This DSCN was approved by the Welsh Information Standards Board (WISB) on 20th August 2020.

WISB Reference: ISRN 2020 / 014

Summary:

To change the scope of the Admitted Patient Care data set (APC ds) to include unfinished episodes and to increase the frequency of submission from monthly to weekly.

Data sets / returns affected:

- APC ds

Please address enquiries about this Data Standards Change Notice to the Data Standards Team in NHS Wales Informatics Service

E-mail: data.standards@wales.nhs.uk

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:

<http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/page.cfm?orgid=742&pid=24632>

DATA STANDARDS CHANGE NOTICE

Introduction

Admitted Patient Care dataset is the most heavily used and well established 'secondary use' resource in Wales. A fit for purpose review was last conducted in 2010 as part of the national dataflows review which identified requirements to improve frequency, timeliness, coverage, coding and content flagged. The COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the need for closer to real-time data.

The aim of this DSCN is to further enhance the data collection by increasing the scope and frequency of the submissions to provide a more complete and timely data collection.

The reporting benefits that will be seen as a result of the change will allow for more timely information; current views and regular reporting tools will be updated more frequently. And it will allow for organisations to see their residents currently in hospital within another health board.

Description of Change

To update the APC reporting schedule to a weekly submission of data.
To increase APC reporting scope to include unfinished episodes.

Data Dictionary Version

Where applicable, this DSCN reflects changes introduced by DSCN and/or DDCN since the release of version 4.10 of the NHS Wales Data Dictionary.

The changes introduced by such DSCNs will be published in version 4.11 of the NHS Wales Data Dictionary.

Actions Required

Actions for Local Health Boards / Trusts:

- Update local APC data extract reporting schedule to weekly
 - Reporting deadline every Tuesday by 2pm with first submission due on Tuesday 22nd September 2020.
 - Data position to be reported as at 23:59hrs on the Monday.
 - Extract to be submitted including all unfinished episodes in addition to completed episodes.
 - Weekly extract to provide data for the month to date & previous month.
 - Weekly extract submission does not require full validation in loading.
- On 3rd Tuesday of each month submit validated data submission. Validated extract can provide a larger period of back data as required by the health board / trust.
 - Monthly extract to submit validated data to the end of the previous month, along with the unfinished position up to the current week.
- Update APC data extract to ensure Record type field complies with amended definitions to utilise record type values for unfinished episodes.

Actions for NHS Wales Informatics Service:

- Update the Switching Service launcher/scheduler to run every 15 minutes to allow health boards to view a report of their errors prior to loading.
- Adding of flag for finished/unfinished episodes to internal APC Fact tables
- Update Validation at Source (VAS) checks to allow for the submission of unfinished episodes as valid records.

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
Return Submission Details	Admitted Patient Care Data Set (APC Ds)	Changed	5
Data Set Scope	Admitted Patient Care Data Set (APC Ds)	Changed	5
Data Item	Record Type	Not changed but included for reference	6

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.

Return Submission Details

All extracts are to be sent in the form of a fixed format file, in the sequence set out below.

The file should be submitted via the secure upload mechanism located on the NHS Wales Data Switching Service (NWDSS) - <https://nwdss.wales.nhs.uk>. Further technical information relating to the submission of the data set can be found on the <https://nwdss.wales.nhs.uk> (**NHS Wales users only**).

Returns should be submitted **monthly weekly** and signed off in the NWDSS by Local Health Boards (LHBs) / Trusts by **2pm every Tuesday. Weekly extract should provide the data position as at midnight on the Monday of that week.** ~~the 17th calendar day of the month. If the 17th falls on a weekend or bank holiday, the deadline for submissions is the next available working day.~~

Weekly APC extract to provide data for the reporting month and previous month. Note that this extract does not require full validation upon loading.

On 3rd Tuesday of each month submit validated data submission. Validated extract can provide a larger period of back data as required by the health board / trust. Monthly extract to provide data validated up to the end of the previous month, along with the unfinished episodes data to the current week.

Files can be uploaded to Validation at Source Service (VASS) before the ~~17th~~ **weekly deadline** to enable LHBs / Trusts to validate and correct their data. VASS Checks can be accessed via the following link: <https://nwdss.wales.nhs.uk/CheckLogic/chkstart.aspx?service=opr> (**NHS Wales users only**).

Scope

The Admitted Patient Care (APC) data set captures data for all consultant-led admitted patient activity, regardless of the patient's area of residence.

Once admitted a patient may have several episodes within a hospital spell. ~~Only once an episode is complete or the hospital spell ends will it be captured in the APC data set.~~ **All episodes, including unfinished episodes should be captured within the APC data set.**

Any activity which is not undertaken by a consultant (or a member of their firm) should be excluded.

All NHS activity regardless of the care provider is included. Private patients seen at an NHS organisation are also included.

From April 2009 assessment unit activity has been required to be reported in the APC data set.

NHS Digital provide data on Welsh resident or registered patients treated in English NHS organisations.

Record Type

Change History	
DSCN (2008) 07 (W)	The Introduction of Valid Period Date Ranges for Data Items within the APC Data Set

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

Data Set / Collection	Valid From	Valid To
APC ds99	1 st April 1999	

Shows the type of data held on the record.

Format: 2 digit numeric

Value	Meaning	Valid From	Valid To
General episode			
11	Unfinished	<i>Pre 28th December 1995</i> Reinstated 21 st January 2002	<i>30th June 1997</i>
13	Finished	Pre 28 th December 1995	
Delivery episode			
21	Unfinished	<i>Pre 28th December 1995</i> Reinstated 21 st January 2002	<i>30th June 1997</i>
23	Finished	Pre 28 th December 1995	
Birth episode			
31	Unfinished	<i>Pre 28th December 1995</i> Reinstated 21 st January 2002	<i>30th June 1997</i>
33	Finished	Pre 28 th December 1995	
Psychiatric census episode			
41	Unfinished, record with psychiatric census data	<i>Pre 28th December 1995</i> Reinstated 21 st January 2002	<i>30th June 1997</i>
Other maternity events			
53	Finished, other maternity event, delivery	<i>Pre 28th December 1995</i> Reinstated 1 st May 1998	<i>30th June 1997</i>
63	Finished, other maternity event, birth	<i>Pre 28th December 1995</i> Reinstated 1 st May 1998	<i>30th June 1997</i>
70	<i>Integrity Record</i>	<i>Pre 28th December 1995</i>	<i>30th April 1998</i>