

WELSH INFORMATION STANDARDS BOARD

DSC Notice:	DSCN 2021 / 20
Date of Issue:	22 nd June 2021

Ministerial / Official Letter: None	Subject: Diagnostic & Therapy Services and Referral to Treatment Waiting Times Returns - Age Group
Sponsor: Lesley Law, Head of Planned Care, Welsh Government and Jonathan Williams, Head of Children's Health, Welsh Government	
Implementation Date: First return November 2021 (census snapshot at 31 st October 2021)	

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) at its meeting on 17th June 2021

WISB Reference: ISRN 2021 / 014

Summary:

To introduce an additional Data Item for Age Group at Referral to the existing Diagnostic and Therapy Services Waiting Times (DATS) and Referral to Treatment Times (Combined) (RTT) aggregate data sets.

Data sets / returns affected:

Diagnostic and Therapy Services Waiting Times (DATS) and Referral to Treatment Times (Combined) (RTT) returns

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

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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:

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

DATA STANDARDS CHANGE NOTICE

Introduction

The Diagnostic and Therapy Services Waiting Times (DATS) and Referral to Treatment Times (Combined) (RTT) were introduced in 2003 and 2011 respectively. These returns support Welsh Government programmes dealing with patient waiting times. Given that requirement, the Standards have changed over the years to include additional procedures and treatments relating to endoscopy, cardiology and sleep disordered breathing.

The impact of COVID-19 on patient waits has led to a need for more detailed information to assess whether specific demographics, e.g. children, within the population are adversely affected. This Standard introduces a Data Item for Age Group at Referral in the DATS and RTT aggregate data sets so that this can be monitored.

Description of Change

To introduce an additional Data Item for Age Group at Referral to the existing Diagnostic and Therapy Services Waiting Times (DATS) and Referral to Treatment Times (Combined) (RTT) aggregate data sets.

Data Dictionary Version

Where applicable, this DSCN reflects changes introduced by DSCN and/or DDCN since the release of version 4.12 of the NHS Wales Data Dictionary.

The changes introduced by such DSCNs will be published in version 4.13 of the NHS Wales Data Dictionary.

Actions Required

Local Health Boards / Trusts:

- Ensure that local processes and system updates are in place to meet the reporting requirements as described in this DSCN
- Include the additional Data Item for Age Group at Referral in the November 2021, and all subsequent returns, for the DATS and RTT Data Sets. The first return will be a census snapshot at 31st October 2021.

Digital Health and Care Wales:

- Update national data processing and validation services (e.g. NHS Wales Data Switching Service and Validation and Source Services) to allow for the reporting of Age Group at Referral.

Welsh Government:

- Ensure that colleagues within Knowledge and Analytical Service (KAS) are informed of the revised Standard and the changes to the extract it receives.

Implementation

The Implementation Date given in this Standard is based on information available at the Date of Issue and is therefore dependent on implementation plans not being affected by unforeseen workload pressures.

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

The following table shows all 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
Live Aggregate Data Collections	Diagnostic and Therapy Services Waiting Times	Changed	5
Live Aggregate Data Collections	Referral to Treatment Times (Combined)	Changed	5
Data Item	Age Group at Referral	New	7

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.

Diagnostic and Therapy Services Waiting Times (DATs)

Data Set Structure

Field Order	Format
Data Reference	2 character alpha
Return Date	ccyymmdd
Hospital Site	Max 50 character alpha numeric
Organisation Code (LHB Area of Residence)	3 character alpha numeric characters (**)
Organisation Code (Code of Provider)	3 character alpha numeric
Service Heading	alpha numeric
Sub Heading	alpha numeric
Weeks Wait	alpha numeric
Count	numeric
Age Group at Referral	2 character alpha numeric

** - It is not essential for Local Health Boards /Trusts to complete this item but is desirable if possible.

See [Services](#)

Referral to Treatment Times (Combined)

Return Submission Details

Field Order	Format
Data Reference	2 alpha characters
Return Date	ccyymmdd
Organisation Code (LHB Area of Residence)	3 alpha numeric characters
Organisation Code (Code of Provider)	3 alpha numeric characters

<u>Referring Organisation Code</u>	3 alpha-numeric characters
<u>Treatment Function Code</u>	3 digit numeric
<u>Local Sub Specialty Code</u>	3 digit numeric
<u>Stage of Pathway</u>	1 digit numeric
<u>Weeks Wait</u>	Alpha Numeric
<u>Count</u>	Numeric
<u>Age Group at Referral</u>	2 character alpha numeric

All returns are to be sent in the form of a comma separated text file (csv format). There will be no header record.

The return should be named as:

xxxmmmyy.csv

where:

xxx = the Local Health Board / Trust code.

mmm = first three letters of the month to which the data relates, e.g. Apr for the submission of data relating to waiting times at end April.

yy = last 2 digits of the year.

Each file may contain RTT data relating to one month only – i.e. contain data relating to one return (or census) date only. Resubmissions are routinely permissible for the month preceding the current reporting month only and should be submitted separately.

The return should be sent via the secure upload mechanism located on the NHS Wales Data Switching Service (NWDSS) – <http://nwdss.hsw.wales.nhs.uk/> (**NHS Wales Users Only**)

Returns should be submitted monthly and signed off in the NHS Wales Data Switching Service by Local Health Boards / Trusts by 17:00 on the 10th working day of the month.

The 26 week Referral to Treatment Time target is applicable to Welsh residents only. Therefore, there is no requirement to submit Referral to Treatment Times for English patients being treated (or waiting for treatment) in Welsh LHBs.

Where LHBs / Trusts provide specialty services for which there are no waits to report, they are not required to include a count for that specialty. However, if the Local Health Board / Trust provides a zero open or closed pathway count for any specialty, the Organisation Code (Code of Provider), Treatment Function Code and Local Sub Specialty Code fields should be populated as normal and:

- CP or OP may be submitted in the Data Reference field, depending on the data reference where the zero count is applicable;
- X98 should be submitted in the Organisation Code (LHB of Residence) field;
- X98 should be submitted in the Referring Organisation Code field;
- A '9' should be submitted in the Stage of Pathway field;
- A zero should be submitted in the zero Weeks Wait time band;
- A zero should be submitted in the Count field.

For Welsh residents treated (or waiting for treatment) in England:

NWIS is routinely provided with data for Welsh residents being treated (or waiting for treatment) in England. This data is initially supplied monthly by a number of English NHS organisations. NWIS is required to collate these individual returns into a single aggregate return and upload via the NHS Wales Data Switching Service – <http://nwdss.hsw.wales.nhs.uk/>. **(NHS Wales Users Only)**

NWIS will provide monthly data extracts of Welsh residents treated (or waiting for treatment) in English NHS organisations to each LHB / Trust. LHBs / Trusts are required to validate their data and agree their data to be reported centrally with NWIS by the 8th working day of the each month. NWIS is then required to submit a single all-Wales return monthly, which should be signed off in the NHS Wales Data Switching Service by 17:00 on the 10th working day of each month.

Each monthly return should relate to data for the reporting period one month previous to the current reporting month – e.g. in June, data for Welsh residents treated (or waiting for treatment) in England in April should be submitted.

Age Group at Referral

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

Data Set / Collection	Valid From	Valid To
DATS	31 st October 2021	
RTT (Combined)	31 st October 2021	

Is the age group that applies to the age of the patient at the time the referral is made into secondary care. For **open** pathways the appropriate age group should be recorded. For all **closed** pathways the Value 99 Not Known/Not Recorded should be used.

For users calculating the age group based on age in days, use the formula $\frac{\text{Days}}{365.25}$

Format: 2 character alpha numeric

Value	Meaning
01	<16 years This includes patients up to, but not including, their 16 th birthday
02	16 & 17 years This includes patients on their 16 th birthday up to, but not including, their 18 th birthday
03	=>18 years This includes patient on their 18 th birthday and older
99	Not Known/Not Recorded