# WELSH INFORMATION STANDARDS BOARD

| **DSC Notice:** | DSCN 2022 / 16 |
|---|---|
| **Date of Issue:** | 26th May 2022 |

| **Ministerial / Official Letter:** N/A | **Subject:** Core Reference Data Standards - adding Title |
|---|---|
| **Sponsor:** John Sweeney, Head of Data Policy and the National Data Resource, Department for Health and Social Services, Welsh Government | |
| **Effective from:** 1st June 2022 with a phased approach to implementation | |

## 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 19th May 2022

**WISB Reference:** ISRN 2022 / 012

**Summary:**

To add a person's title as a new data item within the Core Reference Data Standards.

**Applies to:**

This standard applies to all bodies that commission or provide health and care services in Wales in partnership with the NHS including their relevant system suppliers.

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

E-mail: data.standards@wales.nhs.uk / Tel: 029 2050 3593

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

# DATA STANDARDS CHANGE NOTICE

Introduction

As part of the work to standardise titles within Patient Administration Systems (PAS) across Wales, it was recognised that as this data is passed between many different systems it would be beneficial to standardise title across all systems, not just PASs.

Scope

The list of titles will contain those values that are currently being used within systems and that pass through the Master Patient Index (MPI).

There is no intention at this point to include all titles that exist.  A separate piece of work will take place to investigate whether the list should be expanded.

A title can be captured for any person e.g patients, staff.

Description of Change

To add a person's title as a data item into the Core Reference Data Standards.

Data Dictionary Version

Where applicable, this DSCN reflects changes introduced by DSCN and/or DDCN since the release of version 4.15 of the NHS Wales Data Dictionary.

The changes introduced by such DSCNs will be published in version 4.16 of the NHS Wales Data Dictionary.

Actions Required

Actions for every system that <u>captures</u> a person's title:

- ensure that the list of titles that can be chosen
  - includes all values from the standardised list and no additional values
  - is not related to the person's sex or gender


Actions for every system that <u>stores</u> a person's title:

- for each piece of title data that is already stored within the system,
  - if the stored title is not a value within the standardised list but can be matched to a title from that list, ensure that the stored title is changed to the matched title
  - if the stored title is not a value within the standardised list and does not match with any title from that list, ensure that the stored title is changed to a blank value

*Note: For systems that communicate with MPI, further details will be distributed on how changes to stored data will be coordinated.*

Additional actions for Digital Health and Care Wales:

- WRTS (Welsh Reference Data and Terminology Service) to include Title in the Core Reference Data that is maintained and distributed.
- Integration and Reference team to ensure that any title which is not a value within the standardised list but is intended to be stored in MPI is replaced with a blank value before being passed to MPI.

## 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 below and is shown in the sequence in which it appears in this DSCN.

| Data Definition Type | Name | New/Retired/Changed | Page Number |
|---|---|---|---|
| Operational Data Requirements Scope | Core Reference Data Standard | Changed | 5 |
| Operational Data Requirements Information Specification | Core Reference Data Standard | Changed | 7 |
| Core Reference Data Standard Person Details | Title | New | 11 |

## 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.

## Scope

The Core Reference Data Standards are fundamental to the creation and maintenance of accurate patient information. They are used in both local and national systems and will be present in any new systems procured and developed to manage patient records.

It is recognised that that this is a small set of data items in relation to the number of items of data collected within a patient record, however, this should be viewed as the beginning of the process to develop national operational standards in other aspects of patient records.

~~Whilst it is acknowledged that the implementation of this Standard will be a challenging undertaking, this mandate is designed to focus on the information aspect of this Standard as opposed to the challenges involved in its implementation~~

When systems should adhere to this standard depends on whether they are:

[1] ~~All~~ NHS Wales systems in procurement, or for future procurement ~~must adhere to this Standard~~ **with immediate effect**.

[2] Systems that form part of the national architecture and any local systems which exchange data with these systems or with the eMPI. ~~are required to comply by 1st April 2022.~~ These include (but are not limited to):
- GP systems;
- Welsh Clinical Communications Gateway (WCCG);
- enterprise Master Patient Index (eMPI);
- Welsh Demographics Service (WDS);
- Welsh Admin Portal (WAP);
- Welsh Patient Administration System (WPAS);
- Welsh Laboratory Information Management System (WLIMS);
- Welsh Radiology Information System (WRIS);
- Hospital Pharmacy System;
- Welsh Clinical Portal (WCP);
- Welsh Nursing Care Record (WNCR);
- Welsh Care Records Service (WCRS);
- Welsh Results Reporting Service (WRRS);
- Test Requesting and Results Reporting (TRRR);
- Medicines Transcribing and e-Discharge (MTeD);
- Welsh Community Care Information System (WCCIS);
- Welsh Emergency Department System (WEDS);
- Welsh Reference Data Service (WRDS); and
- Cardiff & Vale Patient Management System (PMS).

[3] ~~The third stage applies to all remaining~~ Any other systems meeting the following criteria~~, which must comply by 1st April 2023~~:
- Information systems supporting the commissioning or provision of NHS services that hold patient / service user demographic data;
- Information systems supporting the commissioning or provision of health and care services that are used to transfer or otherwise communicate patient / service user

information with other bodies that commission or provide health and care services in Wales in partnership with the NHS; and

- New information systems procured after this standard comes into force.

The dates by which systems should adhere to this standard are:

| Data Item | Systems [1] | Systems [2] | Systems [3] |
|---|---|---|---|
| **PERSON** | | | |
| Religion | 22nd Dec 2017 | 1st Apr 2022 | 1st Apr 2023 |
| Marital Status | 22nd Dec 2017 | 1st Apr 2022 | 1st Apr 2023 |
| Sex | 22nd Dec 2017 | 1st Apr 2022 | 1st Apr 2023 |
| Gender Identity | 22nd June 2020 | 1st Apr 2022 | 1st Apr 2023 |
| Ethnicity | 22nd Dec 2017 | 1st Apr 2022 | 1st Apr 2023 |
| Language | 22nd Dec 2017 | 1st Apr 2022 | 1st Apr 2023 |
| Postcode | 22nd Dec 2017 | 1st Apr 2022 | 1st Apr 2023 |
| Title | 1st June 2022 | 1st Dec 2022 | 1st Apr 2023 |
| **ORGANISATION** | | | |
| Organisation Code | 22nd Dec 2017 | 1st Apr 2022 | 1st Apr 2023 |
| Organisation Site Code | 22nd Dec 2017 | 1st Apr 2022 | 1st Apr 2023 |
| GP Practice Code | 22nd Dec 2017 | 1st Apr 2022 | 1st Apr 2023 |
| Dental Practice Code | 22nd Dec 2017 | 1st Apr 2022 | 1st Apr 2023 |
| **CARE PROFESSIONAL** | | | |
| General Medical Practitioner Code | 22nd Dec 2017 | 1st Apr 2022 | 1st Apr 2023 |
| Consultant Code | 22nd Dec 2017 | 1st Apr 2022 | 1st Apr 2023 |
| Nurse PIN | 22nd Dec 2017 | 1st Apr 2022 | 1st Apr 2023 |
| Allied Health Professional Code | 22nd Dec 2017 | 1st Apr 2022 | 1st Apr 2023 |
| **SPECIALTY** | | | |
| Treatment Specialty | 22nd Dec 2017 | 1st Apr 2022 | 1st Apr 2023 |
| Main or Consultant Specialty | 22nd Dec 2017 | 1st Apr 2022 | 1st Apr 2023 |

# Information Specification

Core Reference Data is reference data about the persons, organisations, and services for use in NHS Wales.

The data is distributed and uploaded to health IT systems. It supports user security, access control, messaging and is used as reference data for both operations and reporting.

NHS Wales reference data is issued to users via the Welsh Reference Data Service. Reference data are made available via the Welsh Reference Data Service website at:

http://wrds.wales.nhs.uk/  (NHS Wales Users Only)

| Details | Data Item |
|---|---|
| Person | Religion |
| | Marital Status |
| | Sex |
| | Gender Identity |
| | Ethnicity |
| | Language |
| | Postcode |
| | Title |
| Organisation | Organisation Code |
| | Organisation Site Code |
| | GP Practice Code |
| | Dental Practice Code |
| Care Professional | General Medical Practitioner Code |
| | Consultant Code |
| | Nurse Pin Number |
| | Allied Health Professional Code |
| Specialty | Treatment Specialty |
| | Main or Consultant Specialty |

## Person Details

### Religion

SNOMED CT Subset:
◦       original ID is 10791000000130 and
◦       name is Religious or Other Belief System Affiliation.

A full list of SNOMED-CT religion concept IDs can be downloaded at: https://dd4c.digital.nhs.uk/dd4c/publishedmetadatas/intid/229

Format: 18 character alphanumeric

## Marital Status

Format: 2 character alphanumeric

| Code | Description |
|------|-------------|
| 11 | Single |
| 12 | Cohabiting |
| 21 | Married |
| 22 | Civil Partner |
| 31 | Divorced |
| 32 | Person whose Civil Partnership has been dissolved |
| 41 | Widowed |
| 42 | Surviving Civil Partner |
| 51 | Separated |
| 91 | Not disclosed or unknown |

## Sex†

Format: 1 character alphabetic

| Code | Description |
|------|-------------|
| F | Female |
| U | Indeterminate* |
| M | Male |
| Z | Not disclosed or unknown, e.g. for unborn baby |

* To be used only for recording the sex of a baby prior to the sex being determined as F or M.

† Note that, in any system implementation of this value set, the context in which the information is being collected must be clear to the user inputting the information, e.g. sex *at birth*. By law, a person's previous sex or gender identity must not be disclosed without their explicit consent. Information which could be used to disclose a person's sex must not be captured alongside their gender information within the demographic record, and must be stored separately, e.g. as part of their clinical record.

## Gender Identity

Format: 1 character alphabetic

| Code | Description |
|------|-------------|
| F | Female |
| M | Male |
| N | Non-binary* |
| Z | Not disclosed or unknown, e.g. for unborn baby |

*For use in recording the gender of a person who does not identify as F or M.

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**Ethnicity**

Format: 2 character alphanumeric – AB

Where the first character (A) is a value taken from the list in the table below, and the second character (B) is a locally defined value to be used in conjunction with the nationally defined values. If no further local breakdown is required, the second character (B) should be filled with a 'Z'. Note that for the Substance Misuse and Maternity Indicators data set, only the first character (A) is submitted.

| Code | Description |
|------|-------------|
| | **WHITE** |
| A | Any White Background, including Welsh, English, Scottish, Northern Irish, British, Irish |
| B | Gypsy or Irish Traveller |
| | **MIXED/MULTIPLE ETHNIC GROUP** |
| D | White and Black Caribbean |
| E | White and Black African |
| F | White and Asian |
| G | Any other mixed background / multiple ethnic background |
| | **ASIAN OR ASIAN BRITISH** |
| H | Indian |
| J | Pakistani |
| K | Bangladeshi |
| R | Chinese |
| L | Any other Asian background |
| | **BLACK OR BLACK BRITISH** |
| M | Caribbean |
| N | African |
| P | Any other Black background |
| | **OTHER ETHNIC GROUPS** |
| T | Arab |
| S | Any other ethnic group |
| | **NOT STATED** |
| Z | Not stated |

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**Language**

The relevant list of languages is defined by ISO 639. Note that the recording of language information should support one of or both lists defined by ISO 639-1 and 639-3 standards. This is dependent on the requirement to record languages associated with macrolanguages, e.g. Mandarin (defined in 639-3) and Chinese (639-1), as well as sign languages (639-3).

A full list is available to be downloaded at:

https://iso639-3.sil.org/code_tables/download_tables

Format: 3 character alphanumeric

Note that this Standard should be used in conjunction with the associated Sensory Loss Communication Need Standard defined in DSCN 2018 / 01 in order to capture the method of communication, e.g. for non-spoken languages such as Braille and Makaton. Where a language is not known or if the patient has no spoken/written language, the following values can be used:

| Code | Description |
|------|-------------|
| 998  | Not known   |
| 999  | None        |

**Postcode**

Format: 8 character alphanumeric

The specific code format as specified by the Office of National statistics (ONS) is:

| Data description | Range of codes/ Entity code | Comments |
|------------------|------------------------------|----------|
| Unit postcode – 8 character version | AB1 Δ Δ 1AA - ZE99 Δ 9ZZ (maximum range) | 2, 3 or 4-character outward code - left aligned; <br><br>3-character inward code - right aligned; <br><br>5th character always blank and 3rd and 4th characters may be blank (Δ) |

This allows a space to be inserted to differentiate between the inward and outward segments of the code, enabling full use to be made of the Royal Mail postcode functionality.

There are occasions when the use of a 'pseudo code' is necessary, particularly when dealing with an overseas address. Full details of pseudo country codes and other codes may be obtained from the Office of National Statistics website. Some of the more common pseudo codes are:

| Code | Description |
|------|-------------|
| ZZ99 3VZ | No fixed abode |
| ZZ99 3CZ | England/UK not otherwise specified |
| ZZ99 3GZ | Wales not otherwise specified |
| ZZ99 1WZ | Scotland not otherwise specified |
| ZZ99 2WZ | Northern Ireland not otherwise specified |

UK Postcodes are available via the Welsh Reference Data Service (WRDS): http://wrds.wales.nhs.uk/ **(NHS Wales Users Only)**

## Title

The title by which a person wishes to be known.

For a person who does not wish to be known by any title or wishes to be known by a title that is not listed below, the field should be left blank.

Format: 5 character alphabetic

| Code | Description |
|---|---|
| Admr | Admiral |
| Baron | Baron |
| Brig | Brigadier |
| Bshp | Bishop |
| Can | Canon |
| Capt | Captain |
| Col | Colonel |
| Dame | Dame |
| Dr | Doctor |
| Ftr | Father |
| Lady | Lady |
| Lord | Lord |
| Miss | Miss |
| Mjr | Major |
| Mr | Mr |
| Mrs | Mrs |
| Ms | Ms |
| Mstr | Master |
| Mx | Mx |
| Prof | Professor |
| Rev | Reverend |
| Sgt | Sergeant |
| Sir | Sir |
| Sstr | Sister |
| *a blank value* | < Unknown / None / Other > |

Note: All the above titles should be available for anyone to choose. The choice of titles available should not be restricted by a person's sex or gender.

## Organisation

### Organisation Code

Organisation and site codes are configured with consensus across the UK NHS home countries and published for use by NHS Digital via the Organisation Data Service (ODS).

Codes as listed by the Organisation Data Service are configured to a set of specified coding frames[1], according to organisation type. Welsh health board and trust organisation codes are defined by ODS coding frame B, as illustrated in the table below.

Format: 5 character alphanumeric

| Character Position | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Format | a/n | a/n | a/n | | |
| Local Health Board (Wales) | 7 | A-9 | A-9 | | |
| NHS Trust | R | A-9 | A-9 | | |
| B FRAME | Organisation Type Identifier | | | | |

Default codes:

| Code | Description |
|---|---|
| 89997 | Non-UK provider where no organisation code has been issued |
| 89999 | Non-NHS UK provider where no organisation code has been requested and issued |

Codes for Welsh organisations are available via the Welsh Reference Data Service (WRDS): http://wrds.wales.nhs.uk/ **(NHS Wales Users Only)**

[1] https://www.datadictionary.nhs.uk/data_dictionary/attributes/o/org/organisation_code_de.asp?shownav=1

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**Organisation Site Code**

Organisation and site codes are configured with consensus across the UK NHS home countries and published for use by NHS Digital via the Organisation Data Service (ODS).

Codes as listed by the Organisation Data Service are configured to a set of specified coding frames, according to organisation type. Welsh health board and trust organisation site codes are defined by ODS coding frame B, as illustrated in the table below.

Format: 5 character alphanumeric

| Character Position | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Format | a/n | a/n | a/n | a/n | a/n |
| Local Health Board (Wales) | 7 | A-9 | A-9 | A-9 | A-9 |
| NHS Trust | R | A-9 | A-9 | A-9 | A-9 |
| B FRAME | Organisation Type Identifier | | | Organisation Identifier | |

Default codes:

| Code | Description |
|---|---|
| 89997 | Non-UK provider where no organisation code has been issued |

| | |
|---|---|
| 89999 | Non-NHS UK provider where no organisation code has been requested and issued |

Codes for Welsh organisations are available via the Welsh Reference Data Service (WRDS): http://wrds.wales.nhs.uk/ **(NHS Wales Users Only)**

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**GP Practice Code**

GP practice codes are configured with consensus across the UK NHS home countries and published for use by NHS Digital via the Organisation Data Service (ODS).

Codes as listed by the Organisation Data Service are configured to a set of specified coding frames, according to organisation type. GP practice codes are defined by ODS coding frame G, as illustrated in the table below.

Format: 7 character alphanumeric

| Character Position | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Format | A-H, J-N, P, W & Y | 0-9 | 0-9 | 0-9 | 0-9 | 0-9 | 0-9 |
| G FRAME | Organisation Type Identifier | Practice Identifier | | | | | |

Default Codes:

| Code | Description |
|---|---|
| V81997 | No registered GP Practice* |
| V81998 | Practice not applicable. i.e. MOD or Prison GP** |
| V81999 | Practice code is unknown*** |

*V81997 should only be used where a patient presents who is not currently registered at a GP Practice.

**V81998 should be used where a patient would not have a registered practice, for instance an overseas patient.

***V81999 should only be used where it is not possible to determine a patient's registered practice code, for instance the patient cannot communicate and is unidentifiable.

Codes for Welsh GP practices are available via the Welsh Reference Data Service (WRDS): http://wrds.wales.nhs.uk/ **(NHS Wales Users Only)**

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**Dental Practice Code**

Dental practice codes are configured with consensus across the UK NHS home countries and published for use by NHS Digital via the Organisation Data Service (ODS).

Codes as listed by the Organisation Data Service are configured to a set of specified coding frames, according to organisation type. Dental practice codes are defined by ODS coding frame G, as illustrated in the table below.

Format: 7 character alphanumeric

| Character Position | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Format | V | 0-9 | 0-9 | 0-9 | 0-9 | 0-9 | |
| G FRAME | Organisation Type Identifier* | Practice Identifier** | | | | | |

*The first character is set as a V for dental practice codes

**Characters 2 to 6 are the last 5 digits of the Location ID taken from a Provider Dentist Contract number

Codes for Welsh GP practices are available via the Welsh Reference Data Service (WRDS): http://wrds.wales.nhs.uk/ **(NHS Wales Users Only)**

## Care Professional

### General Medical Practitioner Code

The General Medical Practitioner Code is the GP Code used as the GP Prescribing reference by the prescribing authority.

In England and Wales, General Medical Practitioner codes begin with the prefix letter G with the following format.

Format: 8 character alphanumeric:

| Practitioner Code Type | Character Position | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| General Medical Practitioner PPD code | G | 0-9 | 0-9 | 0-9 | 0-9 | 0-9 | 0-9 | 0-9 |

The 2nd to 7th characters are the Doctor Index Number (DIN) assigned by NHS Digital upon qualification. DINs and addresses are issued quarterly by the Prescription Pricing Authority (PPA). The eighth character is a check digit calculated as follows:

```
  1   x   First numeric character
+ 3   x   second numeric character
+ 7   x   third numeric character
+ 1   x   fourth numeric character
+ 3   x   fifth numeric character
+ 7   x   sixth numeric character
```

The check digit is then the unit digit (last digit) of the result of this calculation.

For example, for PPA code 334512, the check digit would be:
(1 x 3) + (3 x 3) + (7 x 4) + 5 + (3 x 1) + (7 x 2) = 6**2**
The check digit is 2 and the full code G3345122.

NHS UK General Practitioners Reference Data are available via the Welsh Reference Data Service (WRDS): http://wrds.wales.nhs.uk/ **(NHS Wales Users Only)**

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## Consultant Code

A care professional contracted by a Health Care Provider who has been appointed by a consultant's appointment committee.

He or she must be a member of a Royal College or Faculty. This includes general medical practitioners in cases where a general medical practitioner is responsible for patient care and has an arrangement with the Health Care Provider.

The Consultant Code is derived from either the General Medical Council reference number for general medical practitioners, or the General Dental Council registration number for general dental practitioners.

Format: 8 character alphanumeric:

| Practitioner Code Type | Character Position | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** |
| Hospital Consultant* | C | 0-9 | 0-9 | 0-9 | 0-9 | 0-9 | 0-9 | 0-9 |
| Dental Consultant** | D | D | 0-9 | 0-9 | 0-9 | 0-9 | 0-9 | 0-9 |

* Derived from General Medical Council Reference Number, prefixed with a C.
** Derived from General Dental Council Registration Number, prefixed with DD.

Note that General Dental Council registration numbers vary in length from 5 to 6 characters.
Filling zeros are used between the prefix and General Dental Council registration number, where required, to maintain total length of 8 characters.

For further information, please refer to the Dental Consultants in England (PDF) guidance document issued by the Organisation Data Service.

NHS Wales Consultants and Private Consultants Reference Data are available via the Welsh Reference Data Service (WRDS): http://wrds.wales.nhs.uk/ **(NHS Wales Users Only)**

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## Nurse Pin Number

A nurse is a care professional whose name is registered by the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

A nurse pin number is a code that uniquely identifies a nurse on the Nursing and Midwifery Council Register.

Format: 8 character alphanumeric:

NNANNNNA

NHS Wales Nurses' Reference Data are available via the Welsh Reference Data Service (WRDS): http://wrds.wales.nhs.uk/ **(NHS Wales Users Only)**

## Allied Health Professional Code

An allied health professional is a care professional whose name is registered with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). An Allied Health Practitioner (AHP) Code is alpha numeric, with the first two to three alpha characters indicating the profession, followed by 5 to 6 numeric characters.

The list of health professionals listed on the HCPC with the type prefix are:

| AS | Arts Therapist |
|-----|-------------------------------|
| BS | Biomedical Specialist |
| CH | Chiropodist / Podiatrist |
| CS | Clinical Scientist |
| DT | Dietician |
| HA | Hearing Aid Dispenser |
| OT | Occupational Therapist |
| ODP | Operating Department Practitioner |
| OR | Orthoptist |
| PA | Paramedic |
| PH | Physiotherapist |
| PYL | Practitioner Psychologist |
| PO | Prosthetist/Orthotist |
| RA | Radiographer |
| SL | Speech and Language Therapist |

Format: 8 character alphanumeric:

AHP codes are in the format AANNNNN(N) or AAANNNNN

NHS Wales Allied Health Professionals' reference data are available via the Welsh Reference Data Service (WRDS): http://wrds.wales.nhs.uk/ **(NHS Wales Users Only)**

## Specialty

## Treatment Specialty

This is the specialty under which the patient will be or is treated and is based on the list of specialties defined by the Royal Colleges. This may or may not match the specialty recorded as a consultant's main specialty and should be assigned irrespective of the type of care professional responsible.

A full list of these codes can be found at:

http://www.datadictionary.wales.nhs.uk/#!WordDocuments/treatmentfunctioncode.htm

Format: 3 digit numeric

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**Main or Consultant Specialty**

A unique code identifying each Main Specialty designated by Royal Colleges.

Specialties are divisions of clinical work which may be defined by body systems (dermatology), age (paediatrics), clinical technology (nuclear medicine), clinical function (rheumatology), group of diseases (oncology) or combinations of these factors. Only Specialty titles recognised by the Royal Colleges and Faculties should be used. This list is maintained by the General and Specialist Medical Practice (Education, Training and Qualifications) Order 2003 and European Primary and Specialist Dental Qualifications Regulations 1998.

Each consultant should be assigned a Main Specialty by the organisation to which the consultant is contracted. For physicians and surgeons with a generalist component to their work, the Main Specialty should be General Medicine or General Surgery. The Main Specialty is specific to a Health Care Provider. If, for example, a consultant physician working in two Health Care Providers has a generalist component to the work in one and not the other, General Medicine is only assigned as the Main Specialty in the former case. Consultants in general medicine or general surgery may also have specialist interests and these should be recorded as well as the Main Specialty.

The source of this information should be the designation on the consultant's contract. This should be checked periodically against the work a consultant is actually doing so that the statistics can relate to a consultant's current type of work.

The Main Specialty should only be used for the purpose of generating Health Resource Groups (HRGs) for financial costing and for workforce statistics. Other specialist interests of consultants may be recorded for workforce planning purposes.

The Main Specialty code for general practitioners is General Medical Practice or General Dental Practice.

Joint Consultant Clinic activity should be recorded against the Main Specialty code of the consultant managing the clinic.

A full list of these codes can be found at:

http://www.datadictionary.wales.nhs.uk/#!WordDocuments/mainspecialtyconsultant.htm

Format: 3 digit numeric

Format: 3 digit numeric