WELSH INFORMATION STANDARDS BOARD

DSC Notice:	2022 / 76
Date of Issue:	30th October 2023

Welsh Health Circular/Official Letter: WHC/2023/018 **Sponsor:** Digital Medicines Transformation Portfolio (DMTP)	**Subject:** Medicines, Allergies, and Intolerances Interoperability Standards (AMD)
Implementation Date: 1st November 2022 (Systems in procurement or for future procurement). 31st July 2024 (Legacy systems or recently procured systems that are not yet operational).	

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 October 2023.

WISB Reference: ISRN 2022 / 022

Summary:
To update links to the Wales FHIR® Implementation Guide and introduce an implementation date for legacy systems and recently procured systems that are not yet operational.

Data sets / returns affected:
DSCN 2022 / 76 - Medicines, Allergies, and Intolerances Interoperability Standards.

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: 02920502539

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

This standard supports the vision of the Digital Medicines Transformation Portfolio (DMTP) in making the prescribing, transcribing, dispensing and administration of medicines everywhere in Wales, easier, safer, more efficient, and effective, through use of digital systems and services.

The Portfolio covers four domains:
- Seamless primary care electronic prescribing capability (electronic transfer of prescriptions to community pharmacies)
- Seamless secondary care electronic prescribing capability (hospital electronic prescribing and medicines administration)
- Patient access (patient app to support information sharing)
- Shared medicines record (provision of a shared medicines record via a national medicine repository)

It is acknowledged that medicines, allergy, and intolerance information have a very wide potential scope of use. This standard is motivated by the DMTP 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 the latest release of HL7® FHIR® UK Core[1] 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. Consequently the standards for adoption are as follows:

Standard	Description
HL7® FHIR® UK Core (latest release)	Defines FHIR® resources for UK implementation. The NHS Wales FHIR® standards will be derived from this.
dm+d	Provides unique identifiers, standardised descriptions and metadata for therapeutic moieties, medicinal products and devices, including their forms, strengths and routes.
SNOMED CT UK Edition	Enables identification of dosage instructions (dose syntax), allergies, intolerances, and indications

Appendix A provides further information on these supporting standards.

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[1] Regular review of HL7® FHIR® UK Core development will be undertaken by the Welsh Technical Standard Board (WTSB) and changes managed in accordance with the relevant process.

Data Dictionary Version

The changes introduced by this DSCN will be published in version 4.19 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 **1st 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 the latest release of HL7® FHIR® UK Core.
- Assess the impact of this standard and plan to achieve implementation by **31st 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.

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- Ensures that any systems in procurement, or for future procurement, adhere to this Standard and factor it into the procurement process from **1st 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 the latest release of HL7® FHIR® UK Core.
- Assess the impact of this standard and plan to achieve implementation by **31st 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

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Scope

The technical specifications (e.g., API 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, 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 ~~Data Standards~~ Wales FHIR® Implementation Guide (https://simplifier.net/guide/fhir-standards-wales-implementation-guide?version=current). 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. ~~Specific guidance is provided for medications, allergies, and intolerances see the following links²:~~

- ~~Guidance for medications (https://simplifier.net/guide/FHIR-Standards-Wales-Implementation-Guide/Home/Guidance/Medications.page.md?version=current)~~
- ~~Guidance for allergies and intolerances (https://simplifier.net/guide/FHIR-Standards-Wales-Implementation-Guide/Home/Guidance/Allergies.page.md?version=current)~~

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 Guide².

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.

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² 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. (https://simplifier.net/guide/fhir-standards-wales-implementation-guide?version=current)