

WELSH INFORMATION STANDARDS BOARD

DSC Notice:	DSCN 2022 / 06
Date of Issue:	24 th January 2022

<p>Ministerial / Official Letter: None</p> <p>Sponsor: Lisa Walters, Head of Data Policy and the National Data Resource, Department for Health and Social Services, Welsh Government.</p> <p>Implementation Date: Standard effective date: With immediate effect</p> <p>Health Board Implementation: TBC following agreement of implementation plan with national WPAS team and each individual health board.</p>	<p>Subject: Main Specialty (Consultant) (AMD)</p>
<p>DATA STANDARDS CHANGE NOTICE</p>	
<p>A Data Standards Change Notice (DSCN) is an information mandate for a new or revised information standard.</p> <p>This DSCN was approved by the Welsh Information Standards Board (WISB) at its meeting on 20th January 2022.</p>	
<p>WISB Reference: ISRN: 2021 / 019</p>	
<p>Summary: To update the Main Specialty (Consultant) code list to align with the NHS Data Model and Dictionary published by NHS Digital.</p>	
<p>Data sets / returns affected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admitted Patient Care (APC) • Outpatient data set (OP ds) • Outpatient Referral data set (OPR ds) • National Cancer Data Standards – Core • National Cancer Data Standards – SACT 	
<p>Please address enquiries about this Data Standards Change Notice to the Data Standards Team in Digital Health and Care Wales</p> <p>E-mail: data.standards@wales.nhs.uk / Tel: 02920502539</p>	
<p>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:</p> <p>https://nhswales365.sharepoint.com/sites/DHC_DST/Lists/Information%20Standards%20Assurance%20Submission%20Log/AllItems.aspx</p>	

DATA STANDARDS CHANGE NOTICE

Introduction

Main Specialty Codes are 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.

[DSCN \(2013 / 12\)](#) was issued to update the NHS Wales definition of Main Specialty and to clarify that the titles are approved by the Royal Colleges and Faculties. This has formed part of an ongoing work programme to review and update definitions/codes associated with the Main Specialties list so that it is aligned to specialties recognised by the Royal Colleges and Faculties and the General Dental Council.

Description of Change

To update the NHS Wales Main Specialty list to align with recent changes published by NHS Digital. The descriptions and rationale for the changes to the NHS Digital Data Model and Dictionary are outlined in [Change Specification v1.1 \(Amd 45/2019\)](#).

The changes to the NHS Wales Data Dictionary include:

- The addition of 3 new Main Specialty codes.
- Changes to titles and descriptions of several existing Main Specialty codes to better reflect the description of the specialties being provided.
- The addition of a comments column to the Main Specialty code table. These fields include links to the Royal Colleges specialties for further granularity.

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

Digital Health and Care Wales:

- Ensure affected national applications managed by DHCW are upgraded so that the updated list of Main Specialty codes can be stored within the system.

Implementation

This standard introduces a change to the Main Specialty code list published on the NHS Wales Data Dictionary which will be updated with immediate effect at the next possible release date of dictionary.

Due to system and operational pressures, stakeholders were unable to indicate dedicated implementation plans and timescales within their impact assessment responses. Thus, the Data Standards Team suggested that a National Task and Finish Group should be established to manage the implementation. Implementation plans will also need to be developed in partnership with the national WPAS Team, and individual health boards to complete this piece of work.

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
Data Item	Main Specialty (Consultant)	Changed	5

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.

Main Specialty (Consultant)

(This data item was formerly known as 'Specialty Function Code' with the new title being implemented from 15th May 2006)

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	
EAL ds	1 st April 1999	21 st November 2012
OP ds	1 st April 1999	
RTT	1 st April 2007	31 st August 2011
PP01W		8 th February 2021
OPR ds	1 st July 2008	
RTT-PTR	1 st September 2008	30 th September 2009
National Cancer Ds - Core		
National Cancer Ds - SACT		

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 hallmark of a general physician or general surgeon is the continued care of unselected emergency referrals. 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 initial source of the 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 only should be used for the purpose of producing Specialty costing statistics and for Workforce statistics where links with activity and finance are required. 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.

Where the response for data item (Consultation method) is

- Virtual Clinical Review (Non-Patient Contact), record the main specialty of the lead consultant

Format: 3 digit numeric

Code	Main Specialty Title	Valid From	Valid To	Comments
Surgical Specialties				
100	General Surgery	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: Royal College of Surgeons - General Surgery
101	Urology	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: Royal College of Surgeons - Urology
107	Vascular Surgery	24 th January 2022		For further information, see: Royal College of Surgeons - Vascular Surgery
110	Trauma & and Orthopaedics	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: Royal College of Surgeons - Orthopaedic Surgery
120	ENT Ear Nose and Throat	Pre 28 th December 1995		Formerly known as ENT. For further information, see: Royal College of Surgeons - Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT)
130	Ophthalmology	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: The Royal College of Ophthalmologists
140	Oral Surgery	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: Royal College of Surgeons - Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

141	Restorative Dentistry	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: The British Society for Restorative Dentistry (BSRD)
142	Paediatric Dentistry	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: The British Society of Paediatric Dentistry
143	Orthodontics	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: British Orthodontic Society
145	Oral & and Maxillofacial Surgery	1 st April 2015		For further information, see: Royal College of Surgeons - Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
146	Endodontics	1 st April 2015		For further information, see: British Endodontic Society
147	Periodontics	1 st April 2015		For further information, see: British Society of Periodontology
148	Prosthodontics	1 st April 2015		For further information, see: The British Society of Prosthodontics (BSSPD)
149	Surgical Dentistry	1 st April 2015		For further information, see: Royal College of Surgeons - Faculty of Dental Surgery (FDS)
150	Neurosurgery	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: Royal College of Surgeons - Neurosurgery
160	Plastic Surgery	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: Royal College of Surgeons - Plastic and Reconstructive
170	Cardiothoracic Surgery	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: Royal College of Surgeons - Cardiothoracic Surgery
171	Paediatric Surgery	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: Royal College of Surgeons - Paediatric Surgery

180 ¹	Accident & Emergency	Pre 28 th December 1995		
191 ²	<i>Pain Management</i>	Pre 28 th December 1995	31 st March 2015	
Medical Specialties				
180	Accident & Emergency Medicine	Pre 28 th December 1995		Formerly known as Accident and Emergency. For further information, see: The Royal College of Emergency Medicine
190	Anaesthetics	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: Royal College of Anaesthetists
192	Critical Care Intensive Care Medicine	1 st April 2015		Formerly known as Critical Care Medicine. For further information, see: The Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine
200	Aviation and Space Medicine	24 th January 2022		For further information, see: Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board - Aviation and Space Medicine
199 ²	Non-UK provider; specialty function not know, treatment mainly surgical (<i>only applicable for overseas providers</i>)	Pre 28 th December 1995	31 st March 2015	
300	General Internal Medicine	Pre 28 th December 1995		Formerly known as General Medicine. For further information, see: Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board - General Internal Medicine (GIM)
301	Gastroenterology	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board - Gastroenterology
302	Endocrinology and Diabetes	Pre 28 th December 1995		Formerly known as Endocrinology. For further information, see: Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board -

				Endocrinology and Diabetes Mellitus
303	Clinical Haematology	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board - Haematology
304	Clinical Physiology	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: The Registration Council for Clinical Physiologists
305	Clinical Pharmacology	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board - Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics (CPT)
310	Audiological Audio Vestibular Medicine	Pre 28 th December 1995		Formerly known as Audiological Medicine. For further information, see: Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board - Audio vestibular Medicine
311	Clinical Genetics	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board - Clinical Genetics
312²	<i>Clinical Cytogenetics and Molecular Genetics</i>	<i>Pre 28th December 1995</i>	<i>31st March 2015</i>	
313	Clinical Immunology and Allergy	Pre 28 th December 1995		Formerly known as Clinical Immunology and Allergy. For further information, see: Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board - Immunology
314	Rehabilitation Medicine	Pre 28 th December 1995		Formerly known as Rehabilitation. For further information, see: Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board - Rehabilitation Medicine

315	Palliative Medicine	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board - Palliative Medicine
317	Allergy	24 th January 2022		For further information, see: Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board - Allergy
320	Cardiology	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board - Cardiology
321	Paediatric Cardiology	1 st April 2015		For further information, see: Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board - Paediatric Cardiology
325	Sport And Exercise Medicine	1 st April 2015		For further information, see: Faculty of Sport and Exercise Medicine
326	Acute Internal Medicine	1 st April 2015		For further information, see: Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board - Acute Internal Medicine
330	Dermatology	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board - Dermatology
340	Respiratory Medicine (also known as Thoracic Medicine)	Pre 28 th December 1995		Also known as Thoracic Medicine. For further information, see: Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board - Respiratory Medicine
350	Infectious Diseases	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board - Infectious Diseases and Tropical Medicine

352	Tropical Medicine	1 st April 2015		For further information, see: Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board - Infectious Diseases and tropical Medicine
360	Genitourinary Medicine	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board - Genitourinary Medicine
361	Nephrology Renal Medicine	Pre 28 th December 1995		Formerly known as Nephrology. For further information, see: Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board - Renal Medicine
370	Medical Oncology	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board - Medical Oncology
371	Nuclear Medicine	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board - Nuclear Medicine
400	Neurology	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board - Neurology
401	Clinical Neurophysiology	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board - Clinical Neurophysiology
410	Rheumatology	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: British Society for Rheumatology
420	Paediatrics	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health - General Paediatrics

421	Paediatric Neurology	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health - Neurology
430	Geriatric Medicine	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board - Geriatric Medicine
450	Dental Medicine Specialties	Pre 28 th December 1995		Formerly known as Dental Medicine Specialties. For further information, see: Royal College of Surgeons - Faculty of Dental Surgery (FDS)
451	Special Care Dentistry	1 st April 2015		For further information, see: Special Care Dentistry Association (SCDA)
460	Medical Ophthalmology	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board - Medical Ophthalmology
499 ²	<i>Non-UK provider; specialty function not known, treatment mainly medical (only applicable for overseas providers)</i>	<i>Pre 28th December 1995</i>	<i>31st March 2015</i>	
500	Obstetrics A and Gynaecology	1 st April 2015		For further information, see: Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
501	Obstetrics	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
502	Gynaecology	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
504	Community Sexual A and Reproductive Health	1st April 2015		For further information, see: Faculty of Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare of the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists

510 ²	Obstetrics—AN (outpatients)	Pre 28 th December 1995	31 st March 2015	
520 ²	Obstetrics—PN (outpatients)	Pre 28 th December 1995	31 st March 2015	
560 ¹	Midwife Episode	Pre 28 th December 1995		
600	General Medical Practice	1st April 2015		For further information, see: Royal College of General Practitioners
601	General Dental Practice	1st April 2015		For further information, see: Royal College of Surgeons - Faculty of Dental Surgery (FDS)
610 ²	GP Maternity	Pre 28 th December 1995	31 st March 2015	
620 ²	GP Other	Pre 28 th December 1995	31 st March 2015	
831	Medical Microbiology and Virology	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: The Royal College of Pathologists - Medical Microbiology and The Royal College of Pathologists - Virology
833	Medical Microbiology (Also Known As Microbiology And Bacteriology)	1 st April 2015		Also known as Microbiology and Bacteriology. For further information, see: The Royal College of Pathologists - Medical Microbiology
834	Medical Virology	1 st April 2015		For further information, See: The Royal College of Pathologists - Medical Virology
Psychiatry-Mental Health				
700	Learning Disability	Pre 28 th December 1995		Also known as Intellectual Disability. For further information, see: Royal College of Psychiatrists - Faculty of the Psychiatry of Intellectual Disability and British

				Institute of Learning Disabilities
710	Adult Mental Illness	Pre 28 th December 1995		
711	Child & Adolescent Psychiatry	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: Royal College of Psychiatrists - Faculty of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
712	Forensic Psychiatry	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: Royal College of Psychiatrists - Faculty of Forensic Psychiatry
713	Medical Psychotherapy	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: Royal College of Psychiatrists - Faculty of Medical Psychotherapy
715	Old Age Psychiatry	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: Royal College of Psychiatrists - Faculty of Old Age Psychiatry
Radiology				
800 ¹	Clinical Oncology (Previously Radiotherapy)	Pre 28 th December 1995		
810 ¹	Radiology	Pre 28 th December 1995		
Pathology				
820 ¹	General Pathology	Pre 28 th December 1995		
821 ¹	Blood Transfusion	Pre 28 th December 1995		
822 ¹	Chemical Pathology	Pre 28 th December 1995		
823 ¹	Haematology	Pre 28 th December 1995		
824 ¹	Histopathology	Pre 28 th December 1995		
830 ¹	Immunopathology	Pre 28 th December 1995		
831 ¹	Medical Microbiology	Pre 28 th December 1995		

832 ²	Neuropathology	Pre 28 th December 1995	31 st March 2015	
833 ¹	Medical Microbiology (Also Known As Microbiology And Bacteriology)	1 st April 2015		
834 ¹	Medical Virology	1 st April 2015		
Other				
560	Midwifery Episode	Pre 28 th December 1995		Formerly known as Midwife Episode. For further information, see: Royal College of Midwives
800	Clinical Oncology (Previously Radiotherapy)	Pre 28 th December 1995		Formerly known as Radiotherapy. For further information, see: The Royal College of Radiologists - Clinical Oncology
810	Radiology	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: The Royal College of Radiologists (RCR)
820	General Pathology	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: The Royal College of Pathologists
821	Blood Transfusion	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: The Royal College of Pathologists - Blood Transfusion
822	Chemical Pathology	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: The Royal College of Pathologists
823	Haematology	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: The Royal College of Pathologists - Haematology
824	Histopathology	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: The Royal College of Pathologists - Histopathology
830	Immunopathology	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: The Royal College of Pathologists - Immunology

900	Community Medicine	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: Faculty of Public Health
901	Occupational Medicine	Pre 28 th December 1995		For further information, see: Royal College of Physicians - Faculty of Occupational Medicine
902	Community Health Services Dental	1 st April 2015		For further information, see: Faculty of Public Health
903	Public Health Medicine	1 st April 2015		For further information, see: Faculty of Public Health
904	Public Health Dental	1 st April 2015		For further information, see: GOV.uk - Oral Health
950	Nursing Episode	Pre 28 th December 1995		Formerly known as Nursing Episode. For further information, see: Nursing & Midwifery Council
960	Allied Health Professional Episode	1 st April 2015		Formerly known as Allied Health Professional Episode. For further information, see: Health and Care Professions Council
990 ²	<i>Joint Consultant Clinics</i>	<i>Pre 28th December 1995</i>	<i>31st March 2015</i>	

Specialty Codes can be viewed through the following link to the National Reference Data Service (NRDS Website): <http://NRDS.cymru.nhs.uk>

Notes:

¹ Main Specialty codes which have changed sections within the Main Specialty table.

² Main Specialty codes which have been retired and have subsequently moved to the 'Retired' table, located beneath the Main Specialty table.

Retired

Code	Main Specialty Title	Valid From	Valid To
191	Pain Management	Pre 28 th December 1995	31 st March 2015
199	Non-UK provider; specialty function not know, treatment mainly surgical (<i>only applicable for overseas providers</i>)	Pre 28 th December 1995	31 st March 2015
312	Clinical Cytogenetics and Molecular Genetics	Pre 28 th December 1995	31 st March 2015
499	Non-UK provider: specialty function not known, treatment mainly medical (<i>only applicable for overseas providers</i>)	Pre 28 th December 1995	31 st March 2015
510	Obstetrics – AN (outpatients)	Pre 28 th December 1995	31 st March 2015
520	Obstetrics – PN (outpatients)	Pre 28 th December 1995	31 st March 2015
610	GP Maternity	Pre 28 th December 1995	31 st March 2015
620	GP Other	Pre 28 th December 1995	31 st March 2015
832	Neuropathology	Pre 28 th December 1995	31 st March 2015
990	Joint Consultant Clinics	Pre 28 th December 1995	31 st March 2015