



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

## WELSH INFORMATION STANDARDS BOARD

DSC Notice:	DSCN 2024 / 12
Date of Issue:	1 <sup>st</sup> August 2024

Welsh Health Circular/Official Letter: <a href="#">Implementing a new data set for emergency care – the Welsh Emergency Care Data Set (WECDS)</a>	Subject: Welsh Emergency Care Data Set
Sponsor: Roger Perks, Head of Unscheduled Care, Delivery & Performance Division, Delivery Directorate, Health and Social Services Group, Welsh Government	
Implementation Date: Vanguard Sites – 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2025 All other Emergency Departments, Same Day Emergency Care and Minor Injury Units-1 <sup>st</sup> April 2026	

### 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 the 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024

WISB Reference: ISRN 2022 / 010

Summary: To introduce the Welsh Emergency Data Set

Data sets / returns affected:

New Patient Level Data Set:

1. Welsh Emergency Care Data Set

Existing Patient Level Data Set(s):

2. Emergency Department Data Set (EDDS)

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](mailto: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:

[https://nhs.wales365.sharepoint.com/sites/DHC\\_DST/Lists/Information%20Standards%20Assurance%20Submission%20Log/AllItems.aspx](https://nhs.wales365.sharepoint.com/sites/DHC_DST/Lists/Information%20Standards%20Assurance%20Submission%20Log/AllItems.aspx)

# DATA STANDARDS CHANGE NOTICE

## Introduction

There are approximately 1 million attendances a year in Welsh Emergency Departments (ED's) and Minor Injury Units (MIU's). These services sit at the centre of many Urgent and Emergency Care (UEC) pathways and yet over 60% of the diagnosis activity currently captured; is blank, unknown, not specified, or unrecorded.

There is a need improve the quality and consistency of the information available across UEC Service in Wales. Whilst quantitative measures such as the 4 and 12-hour waiting times are still used widely there is an ever increasing need to understand the challenges of delivering emergency care, unfortunately the data is currently not available to help achieve this. Better data that enables us to understand the complexity and acuity of attending patients will help to demonstrate patient flow and exit blocks, improve the capture of diagnostic data, and drive operational initiatives to improve services. It will help to highlight the causes of rising demand, support injury and public health surveillance which will lead to targeted interventions and has the potential to help to reduce emergency care attendances and improve patient outcomes. Subsequently, the pandemic underlined the need for better information from across the whole health and care system, with an emphasis on UEC.

The Welsh Emergency Care Data Set (WECDS) will replace the current Emergency Department Data Set (EDDS) which was last updated in 2009. WECDS will support the linkage of data across healthcare and social care services ensuring that it is possible to understand the complete patient journey through UEC Services. It will also provide the ability to accurately compare urgent and emergency care data across borders which has its own inherent benefits, and adopting a similar dataset will promote greater consistency in reporting across regions.

EDDS is outdated and not fit for purpose and does not accurately capture the activities which form the complexity seen in the delivery of UEC services across Wales. It is widely accepted that EDDS requires a complete overhaul to ensure it is reflective of the patient pathway through UEC. EDDS contains significant numbers of fields that do not generate meaningful data or are left incomplete and as a result significant inconsistencies in reporting ED activity across hospital sites have been identified.

The initial focus of this phase of WECDS implementation is on Type 1 Emergency Departments (24-hour, consultant lead ED's), Minor Injury Units (MIU's), and Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC), the project anticipates broader applicability to other UEC services across Wales such as the Ambulance Service, Urgent Primary Care (UPC), and NHS 111 in the future.

The Emergency Care Data Set (ECDS), developed in England in 2015 by a collaborative team led by The Royal College of Emergency Medicine in Partnership with NHS England, NHS digital and Public Health England, serves as the foundation for the Welsh Emergency Care Data Set (WECDS). The adoption of a data set similar to ECDS will provide the ability to accurately compare UEC data across borders and carries inherent benefits and promotes greater consistency in reporting across regions.

The WECDS is based on version 4.0 of Emergency Care Data Set (ECDS) which went live in England in October 2023. The first iteration of ECDS was mandated via an Information Standard Notice (ISN) in 2017.

## Scope

The scope of this work includes the following:

- Implementation of WECDS in all Type 1 ED's in Wales.
- Implementation of WECDS in all MIU's in Wales.
- Implementation of WECDS to support SDEC across Wales.
- The development data quality standards for data submitted via the WECDS.
- Integration with the National Data Resource (NDR) to enable access to data.

- An interim data repository to store and process the data submitted via WECDS post NDR readiness.
- WECDS data dashboards to enable access to UEC data.
- The development of a Public Health Wales (PHW) Emergency Department Syndromic Surveillance System (EDSSS), similar to that seen in England<sup>1</sup>.
- Moving to accurate, real-time UEC data.
- Flow into National Operational Dashboard
- Implementation of SNOMED CT.
- Increase the capture and quality of injury & violence data to support the work of the Violence Prevention Unit (VPU), specifically the Serious Violence Duty.

It is anticipated that in due course, the data set's underlying features and principles will enable linkage with other UEC services such as Urgent Primary Care (UPC), the Welsh Ambulance NHS Service Trust (WAST), NHS 111 Wales and Out of Hours (OoH), as well as the wider health care system.

### Description of Change

To Introduce the Welsh Emergency Care Data Set (WECDS)

### Data Dictionary Version

Where applicable, this DSCN reflects changes introduced by DSCN and/or DDCN since the release of version 4.20 of the NHS Wales Data Dictionary.

The changes introduced by such DSCNs will be published in version 4.22 of the NHS Wales Data Dictionary.

### Actions Required

Local Health Boards / Trusts:

- Update local processes and systems to comply with the Enhanced Technical Output Specification (ETOS) attached in this DSCN.

Digital Health and Care Wales:

- Modify and update the Welsh Patient Administration System (WPAS) to accommodate the DSCN for Local Health Boards using this software.
- Enable the seamless flow of data into a central repository via the National Data Resource (NDR).
- Integrate the data set within the Central Data Repository (CDR) and National Data Analytics Platforms (NDAP).
- Establish an Information Governance framework for collecting patient-level sensitive information.
- Create and maintain value sets according to the information specification.
- Maintain and highlight any changes to the SNOMED CT code sets.
- Maintain the DSCN as Operational and Clinical Practices evolve.
- Develop of FHIR Profiles to support the data set and Implementation.

Welsh Government

- Develop new strategic Urgent & Emergency Care metrics and measures to support policy direction.

# SPECIFICATION

---

## Enhanced Technical Output Specification

The WECDS ETOS attached includes the following information that makes up the information standard mandated by this DSCN:

- Data Group
- Data Item Name
- Wales Data Dictionary Link
- Data Dictionary (Existing/Amendment/New)
- WECDS Data Item Definition
- WECDS Justification
- Method of Collection
- Mandatory/Required/Optional/Pilot
- Data Item Repeats
- Format
- SNOMED CT/NHS Wales DD/WRTS
- WECDS Code Sets

WECDS Information Specification v1.2:

[20240718-DSCN 2024 12-Welsh Emergency Care Data Set v1.2 ETOS LOCKED Version 2.xlsx \(live.com\)](#)

## Appendix

Welsh Government Letter - Implementing a new data set for emergency care - the Welsh  
Emergency Care Data Set (WECDS)



20240425 -  
Implementing a new