

DSC Notice: 51/2003 (W)
English DSCN Equivalent: N/A
Date of Issue: December 2003

IRSS Information Requirements and Standards Sub Committee	Subject: Data Standards: Waiting Times Information Service: Reduced Specialty List
	Implementation date: Effective from 31 st March 2003 (<i>Please note this is a retrospective DSCN</i>)

DATA SET CHANGE CONTROL PROCEDURE

Summary of changes:

This notice provides details of the reduced Specialty List used for the Waiting Times Information Service (WTIS).

<i>Change Proposal Reference No:</i> <i>IRSS/12/02/01</i>
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The Information Requirements and Standards Sub Committee (IRSS), is responsible for approving information standards.

Please address enquiry's about this DSCN to Data Standards and Information Quality Team, HSW, Brunel House, 2 Fitzalan Road, Cardiff CF24 0HL E-mail Datastandards@hsw.wales.nhs.uk

Data Set Change Notices are available via the Intranet Service HOWIS <http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/> or by contacting the above address.

DSCN numbering format = sequence number/year of issue, (W) for Welsh DSCN's.

DATA SET CHANGE NOTICE 51/2003 (W)

Reference: IRSS/12/02/01

Subject: Waiting Times Information Service: Reduced Specialty List

Effective Date: Effective from 31st March 2003

Background:

NHS Trusts provide data to the Waiting Times Information Service (WTIS) by Specialty, Sub-Specialty, and Procedure. There are 77 specialties/sub-specialties and procedures collected and published as part of WTIS. Stakeholders of this data are primarily GP Practices, Patients, Health Authorities, and NHS Direct Wales.

A WTIS Review was undertaken whereby, in their capacity as information users, Clinical and Medical Directors, Complaints Officers, CHCs, NHS Direct Wales, and every GP Practice in Wales were surveyed on a wide range of aspects of WTIS. NHS Trusts were also surveyed, from their perspective as data suppliers.

One of the recommendations made was to reduce the Specialty/Sub-Specialty, and Procedure list to reflect user information demand. It was believed that many of the 77 were not used.

Information Users were asked to list the top 25 specialties/ sub-specialties and procedures required for the service. The Performance Management Division (PMD) in the Welsh Assembly accepted this list, but requested that an extra 8 be added.

This agreement reduced the total Specialty List to 33. This list is shown in Annex 1.

The review proposing the changes was supported by Commissioning Corporate Information Services Group (CCISG) which has wide NHS representation, and a review project board with representatives from NHS Trusts/HAs (structure in place at time of review)/CHCs/NHS Direct Wales/PMD/Innovations in Care/Cardiff LHG/GP.

Business Case and Supporting Evidence:

- The 'top 25' was compared against the pattern of visits to WTIS web pages and showed a strong relationship. The remaining in the list had very few visits over the period, which backs up the survey response
- The overall survey response was poor – some 10% or approx. 90 returns, indicating that there was limited overall demand for the information, and that a reduction was in the right direction to make the service more responsive

- The review indicated that data quality were poor. The reduction of the burden on NHS Trust to supply only essential and required data based on stakeholder preferences should give information departments and directorates more time to consolidate and send in data
- There will be limited impact on Health Solutions Wales, who manage the National Database, to introduce the revised list
- NHS Trusts were asked whether the reduction of the list would present problems at the Welsh Health Information Managers Meeting in November 2002, which was not the case. The reduction in the core list for WTIS does not influence Trusts work to present similar information locally as part of their own value added services to provide waiting times.
- There are no new specialties/procedures introduced which would otherwise represent an additional burden on Trusts as data suppliers
- The top 25 is not seen as 'set in stone' but a core list. In the review, there was a recommendation that additions or deletions should be part of a proper change control process, to avoid a burgeoning of the list and excessive burden on NHS Trusts as data suppliers without evidence of user/stakeholder demand.

Implementation:

This is a retrospective DSCN. Data collected in April 2003 (as at March 31st 2003) reflected the reduction in the list.

Implications:

The change will reduce the data supplied and result in a cost reduction for Trust Information Departments. Time will be diverted from collecting large volumes of data to collecting smaller volumes of a higher quality. Effort will be reduced rather than systems.

HSW were consulted on the impact for implementation. Feedback from HSW indicates that they need only carry out a short piece of work to modify the list for the WTIS application software used to collect and publish data. They stated that changes to the system could be made without impact on the normal WTIS service.

If not implemented, the integrity of the review would be questioned and stakeholders' expectations would not be met. Trusts would continue to supply a series of unwanted data, together with the processing and publishing of data, which would be of little interest to information users.

NHS Direct Wales felt that a reduction in the list would reduce the information available to them. However, as part of the review process it was agreed that this was necessary in the longer term development of a new/changed service, and that should there be any difficulty they could revert to Trusts for information.

Please address enquiries about this DSCN to: -

*Data Standards and Information Quality Team
Health Solutions Wales
14th Floor - Brunel House
2 Fitzalan Road
Cardiff
CF24 0HA*

Tel No. 029 20 50 3292

E-mail Datastandards@hsw.wales.nhs.uk

Annexe 1.**List of top 25 preferred Specialties/Procedures identified by Information Users**

Rank	Specialty/Procedure
1	General Surgery
2	Cardiology
3	Ophthalmology - Paeds
4	General Medicine
5	ENT
6	Rheumatology
7	Gynaecology
8	Dermatology
9	Urology
10	T&O Hip Replacement
11	T&O Knee Replacement
12	Trauma & Orthopaedic
13	Paediatrics
14	Psychiatry Mental Illness
15	Ophthalmology - Cataracts
16	Palliative Medicine
17	<i>T&O Back Pain</i>
18	Cardiac Surgery
19	General Surgery - Breast
20	Gastroenterology
21	General Surgery - Hernias
22	<i>ENT-Hearing Clinic</i>
23	NEU
24	Neurosurgery
25	Dermatology - Skin Lesions

Italics – due to nature of service cannot be collected using existing codes

Retention requested by PMD in addition to top 25 – shows strong link with web visits

26	T&O Arthroscopy
27	Plastic Surgery
28	Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia Surgery
29	ENT Paediatrics
30	Gen. Surg. Vascular
31	Gen. surg. Varicose veins
32	Ophthalmology
33	Tonsillectomy
34	T&O Paediatrics
35	Dermatology Paediatrics