

DSC Notice: 52/2003 (W)
English DSCN Equivalent: N/A
Date of Issue: December 2003

IRSS Information Requirements and Standards Sub Committee	Subject: Data Standards: Monthly Collection of Information on Waiting Times for Specified Diagnostic and Therapy Services <hr/> Implementation date: Effective from May 2003 (<i>Please note this is a retrospective DSCN</i>)
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DATA SET CHANGE CONTROL PROCEDURE

Summary of changes:

Monthly collection by the National Assembly for Wales of counts of waiting times for referrals to specified diagnostic and therapy services,

<i>Change Proposal Reference No:</i> <i>IRSS/04/03/01</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 52/2003 (W)

Reference: IRSS/04/03/01

Subject: Monthly Collection of Information on Waiting Times for Specified Diagnostic and Therapy Services

Effective Date: Effective from May '03

Background:

The Welsh Health Circulars (2002) 059 and (2003) 052 made notification of the introduction of a new waiting times collection initiative to cover referrals to specified diagnostic and therapy services. This originated from the 'Waiting Times Strategy', in July 2001, to extend the publication of waiting times to include diagnostic and therapy services.

WHC (2002) 059 covered the introduction of a pilot data collection, with WHC (2003) 052 covering the successful completion of the pilot and to formally confirm the continuation of the monthly collection.

Implementation:

The data submission is mandatory from April 2004. But, to ensure that data is available for the annual planning and performance improvement processes, monitoring of compliance will commence from December 2003.

To allow Trusts to assess and address any resourcing impact, Trusts are required to return their data to Health Solutions Wales on a monthly basis, commencing in May 2003.

Effect on Data Dictionary:

New data definitions and items will be included in Version 2.4 of the NHS Wales Data Dictionary (see **Changes** below).

Detail of Return:

The collection will be returned in the form of a spreadsheet. The file will be identified by the following naming convention:

DTxxxmmyy

Where: DT = Diagnostic & Therapy
xxx = Trust Code
mm = number of the month to which the data relates
yy = last two digits of the year

The data will be based on waiting times up to the last day of each month. Professions should report to the Information Department by the seventh working day of each month.

The file will have the following format:

Column Heading	Format
Trust Codes	3 character identifier
Site	Free Text
Service Heading	See Changes below
Service Sub Heading	See Changes below
Weeks Wait	See Changes below
Count	Number of patients waiting in each time band; See Changes below
Period Ending	Census Date (dd/mm/yyyy); last day of each month See Changes below

Example:-

Trust	Site	Service Heading	Service Sub Heading	Weeks wait	Count	Period Ending
RVA	West Wales General	Cardiology	Stress Test	Under 6	99	12122003
RVA	West Wales General	Cardiology	Echo Cardiogram	Over 6 and up to 12	99	12122003

Separate information is required for each site within the Trusts' responsibility. Community services, clinics, and home visits should be grouped together on one '**Community**' return.

Services that are not provided by a site should be left blank. Where a site provides a service and there are nil patients waiting, a zero should be placed under the 'Under 6 weeks' column.

Clearance:

IRSS have approved the introduction of the Monthly Collection of Waiting Times for Specified Diagnostic and Therapy Services.

Please address enquiries about this DSCN to: -

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CHANGES

Change type: *New definition included in TERMS*

COMMUNITY PATIENT (DIAGNOSTIC & THERAPY SERVICES)

(DT Waiting Times)

A patient who, whilst in receipt of services, is not an inpatient or daycase patient.

The contact may take place in the patient's home, in a health centre, or other community setting, or in a department located in hospital premises.

Change type: *New definition included in TERMS*

EPISODE OF CARE (DIAGNOSTIC & THERAPY SERVICES)

(DT Waiting Times)

An episode of care comprises one, or a series of contacts with diagnostic or therapy staff, relating to a care plan arising from an assessment or examination. The assessment or examination process is not counted. The episode of care commences when the first intervention identified in the care plan is delivered.

A patient may have concurrent episodes of care if, in the course of executing a treatment plan, a separate treatment need is identified.

Change type: *New definition included in TERMS*

DATE OF COMMENCEMENT OF EPISODE OF CARE (DIAGNOSTIC & THERAPY SERVICES)

(DT Waiting Times)

The date the patient attended to commence an episode of care.

Change Type:

New Data Item in Data Items (A-Z)

SERVICE HEADING

(DT Waiting Times)

Name of specified diagnostic and therapy services for which the Monthly Collection of Waiting Times is based.

Specified services and therapies are:-

Radiology
Cardiology
Audiology
Dietetics
Physiotherapy
Occupational Therapy
Speech & Language Therapy
Arts Therapies
Podiatry

These are sub-divided into Service Sub Headings. See Service Sub Heading.

Change Type:

New Data Item in Data Items (A-Z)

SERVICE SUB HEADING

(DT Waiting Times)

Sub divisions of the specified services used for the Monthly Collection of Waiting Times of Diagnostic and Therapy Services.

Service	Service Sub Heading	Description	
Radiology	Barium Enema C.T M.R Non-Obstetric Ultrasound Nuclear Medicine	Patients are removed from the waiting list on the date of the diagnostic test, for which they are waiting, is carried out. All to be reported by referral from consultant or GP.	
Cardiology	Stress Test Echo Cardiogram	A non-invasive procedure to record the heart's electrical activity during exercise A non-invasive ultrasound procedure used to diagnose cardiovascular disease	Patients are removed from the waiting list on the date of the diagnostic test, for which they have been referred, is carried out.
Audiology	Adult Hearing Aids	An externally worn electronic listening device.	Patients are removed from the waiting list on the day their hearing aid is fitted. All to be reported by referral from consultant or GP
Dietetics	Adults Paediatrics	Paediatrics are defined as under 18 years of age. Adults are defined as 18 years of age and over.	Patients are removed from the waiting list on the Date of Commencement of Episode of Care (Diagnostic & Therapy Services)
Physiotherapy	Adults Paediatrics	Paediatrics are defined as under 18 years of age. Adults are defined as 18 years of age and over.	Patients are removed from the waiting list on the Date of Commencement of Episode of Care (Diagnostic & Therapy Services)

Occupational Therapy	Adults Paediatrics/Adolescents Learning Disabilities Mental Health	Paediatrics/Adolescents are defined as under 18 years of age. Adults are defined as 18 years of age and over.	Patients are removed from the waiting list on the Date of Commencement of Episode of Care (Diagnostic & Therapy Services)
Speech & Language Therapy	Adults Paediatrics/Adolescents Learning Disabilities Mental Health	Paediatrics/Adolescents are defined as under 18 years of age. Adults are defined as 18 years of age and over.	Patients are removed from the waiting list on the Date of Commencement of Episode of Care (Diagnostic & Therapy Services)
Art Therapies	Learning Disabilities Mental Health		Patients are removed from the waiting list on the Date of Commencement of Episode of Care (Diagnostic & Therapy Services)
Podiatry	Urgent Soon Routine		Patients are removed from the waiting list on the Date of Commencement of Episode of Care (Diagnostic & Therapy Services)

Change Type: *New Data Item in Data Items (A-Z)*

WEEKS WAIT

(DT Waiting Times)

The time bands for reporting the waiting time counts.

These time bands will be described in weeks, and will be split into the following groups:-

Under 6	Over 6 and up to 12	Over 12 and up to 24	Over 24 and up to 36	Over 36 and up to 48	Over 48 and up to 60	Over 60 and up to 72	Over 72
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The count of waiting time will start from the referral request received date and end on the census date, which is the last day of each month.

Change Type: *New Data Item in Data Items (A-Z)*

COUNT

(DT Waiting Times)

Numeric field showing number of patients in each time band. See Weeks Wait.

Change Type: *New Data Item in Data Items (A-Z)*

PERIOD ENDING

(DT Waiting Times)

The census date is the end date up to when the waiting time counts, for that month, will be accumulated.

This will be the last day of each month and will have the format ddmmyyyy.

Change Type: *New Data Set in Data Items and Terms (Grouped by Data Set)*

◇ New section to be added. This section to be called:

DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPY SERVICES WAITING TIMES

◇ References to be made to the Data Definition and Data Items used in this return.