IRSS **Information Requirements and** **Standards Sub Committee**	**Subject:** Clarification of 'Priority Type' and use of 'Soon'
	Implementation date: Immediately

DATA SET CHANGE CONTROL PROCEDURE

Summary of change:

This change is to clarify the definition of the data item 'Priority Type' in the NHS Wales Data Dictionary and to instruct the Trusts to place 'soon' priorities into the 'urgent' category.

Datasets affected are Outpatient (OP) and Elective Admissions List (EAL).

This change will be included in version 2.11 of the NHS Wales Data Dictionary.

> *Change Proposal Reference No:*
> *IRSS 20060127/01*

The Information Requirements and Standards Sub Committee (IRSS), is responsible for approving information standards.

Please address enquiries about data set change proposals to the Data Standards and Information Quality Team, HSW, Brunel House, 2 Fitzalan Road, Cardiff CF24 0HA Tel: 029 20502539 or E-mail Data.Standards@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.

Change Proposal Reference No. format = year/month/sequence number (relates to when IRSS approved change)

DATA SET CHANGE NOTICE (2006) 02 (W)

Reference:	IRSS 20060127/01
Subject:	Re-definition of 'Priority Type' and use of 'soon'
Reason for Change:	To ensure Priority Type complies with the 'Guide to Good Practice: Elective Service'
Effective Date:	Immediately

Background:

The Outpatient Data Quality project was aimed at ensuring that 14 key data items meet the national Data Accreditation levels. One of these data items is 'Priority Type'.

The aim of the 'Guide to Good Practice: Elective Services', published by NLIAH in October 2005 is to ensure speedy treatment by the NHS through improving waiting times. Patients will be treated in turn as defined by the clinical priority. The clinical priority must be set when a referral is received. Therefore, in order to place a patient on a waiting list, the priority must be set for the first appointment.

This change is to ensure that a valid Priority Type is recorded in the OP and EAL minimum data sets for a First Attendance. For a Follow up Attendance, the Priority Type is to be blank.

Many NHS Wales Trusts locally use the priority of 'soon' to schedule appointments. However, the 'Guide to Good Practice: Elective Services' Chapter 2.4 (Clinical Prioritisation) declares that only 2 priorities should be used – 'Urgent' and 'Routine'.The National Leadership and Innovation for Healthcare (NLIAH) have directed the Trusts to place referrals which have been given a priority of 'soon' into the 'Urgent' category. This DSCN instructs the Trusts and Powys LHB to transpose priorities of 'soon' to 'urgent' for their OP and EAL submissions.

Local use of 'soon' may remain as an interim measure. Trusts are to encourage clinicians to withdraw the use of 'soon' and, instead, to prioritise using 'urgent' or 'routine'. Only the categories of 'urgent' or 'routine' will be valid for the data item 'Priority Type'.

Effect on the NHS Wales Data Dictionary:

Appendix A details the changes to the data item 'Priority Type'.

Appendix A: Proposed Change

Changes to the NHS Wales Data Dictionary are detailed below, with new text being highlighted in **blue.**

Change Description: *Data Item*

Priority Type (New Patients)

(EAL mds/ OP mds)

This is the priority of a request for services **and is to be recorded for a new patient, that is, First Attendance = 1**. In the case of services to be provided by a Consultant, it is as assessed by or on behalf of the Consultant.

For a Follow Up Attendance, Priority Type must be blank.

Note:

Priority Type can be defined more precisely if this is needed for local purposes, as long as the classifications can be mapped back to the national ones.

Appointments which have been classified as 'soon' locally must be defined as 'Urgent' in the minimum datasets.

Format: 1 digit numeric

Value	Meaning
1	Routine
2	Urgent

Additional Information:

Please address enquiries about this DSCN to: -

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