

DSC Notice: (2006) 05 (W)
English DSCN Equivalent: N/A
Initiating Welsh Reference: RCN 12/2005
Date of Issue: 15th May 2006

IRSS Information Requirements and Standards Sub Committee	Subject: Rename Data Items ‘Consultant Specialty Function Code’ and ‘Specialty Function Code’
	Implementation date: Immediately

DATA SET CHANGE CONTROL PROCEDURE

Summary of change:

This DSCN will change the titles of Data Items ‘Consultant Specialty Function Code’ and ‘Specialty Function Code’ to reflect their content and to harmonise the NHS Wales Data Dictionary with the English Data Dictionary and N Ireland Data Dictionary.

Change Proposal Reference No: IRSS 20060503/01

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

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 (draft) = (year of draft) 2-alphacharacter sequence (W)

Upon receiving approval for the change by IRSS, the draft DSCN number will be reformatted to:

DSCN number format = year of issue / sequence number, (W)

In addition,

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

DATA SET CHANGE NOTICE (2006) 05 (W)

Reference:	IRSS 20060503/01
Subject:	Rename the Data Items 'Consultant Specialty Function Code' and 'Specialty Function Code'
Reason for Change:	To ensure the titles of these data items reflect their function and raise the quality of the data
Effective Date:	Immediately

Background:

The titles of data items 'Consultant Specialty Function Code' and 'Specialty Function Code' are potentially ambiguous and increase the risk of being populated with incorrect data.

Data item 'Consultant Specialty Function Code' holds the specialty code of the treatment.

Data item 'Specialty Function Code' holds the main specialty code of the consultant.

From the particular way in which the titles of these data items are phrased, it is not clear what the precise content for each would be.

It has been decided that, these data items require re-titling to reflect their content and to harmonise the other home countries Data Dictionaries

Changing to the new titles for these data items provides a better indication of their respective functions and will help raise the quality of the data.

Please note that the effect of this DSCN is to change the name of two data items. The definitions of these data items have not been changed.

The changes to the NHS Wales Data Dictionary can be found in Appendix A.

Appendix A: Proposed Change

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

~~Consultant Specialty~~ **Treatment Function Code** (APC ds99/ EAL mds/ OP mds)

The specialty under which the patient is treated. This may either be the same as the Main Specialty (Consultant) or a different specialty function which will be the consultant's interest specialty function. A specialty function is a division of clinical work to a lower level than that designated by Royal Colleges and Facilities. Note that both the main specialty function and the interest specialty function should be based on one of the Royal College specialties.

Format: 3 digit numeric

Main Specialty Function Code (Consultant) (APC ds99/ EAL mds/ OP mds)

This is the main specialty of the Consultant. It is a unique identifier for a ~~specialty~~ **specialty** function. A specialty function is a division of clinical work to a lower level than that designated by Royal Colleges and Facilities.

Format: 3 digit numeric

Additional Information:

Please address enquiries about this DSCN to: -

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