

DSC Notice: (2006) 07 (W)
**English DSCN equivalent: 14/2005 &
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Initiating Welsh reference: WHC(2006)014
Date of Issue: 22 May 2006

<p style="text-align: center;">IRSS Information Requirements and Standards Sub Committee</p>	<p>Subject: Implementation of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys Classification of Surgical Operations and Procedures (OPCS) version 4.3.</p> <hr/> <p>Implementation date: 1st April 2007</p>
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DATA SET CHANGE CONTROL PROCEDURE

Summary of change:

Currently, NHS Wales uses the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys Classification of Surgical Operations and Procedures (OPCS) version 4.2. From 1st April 2007, NHS Wales will introduce version 4.3 to allow recording of additional clinical interventions codes and to align with similar implementations in NHS England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

**Change Proposal Reference No:
IRSS20060512/01**

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@hsm.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-alpha character 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)

Document Control

Version:	Issued on:	Owner	Details:
1.0	22/05/06	Jen Evans	Published DSCN following IRSS approval

DATA SET CHANGE NOTICE (2006) 07 (W)

- Reference:** IRSS 20060512/01
- Subject:** Implementation of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys Classification of Surgical Operations and Procedures (OPCS) version 4.3
- Reason for Change:** To allow recording of additional clinical interventions codes and to align with similar implementations in NHS England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- Effective Date:** 1st April 2007

Background:

Currently, NHS Wales utilises the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys Classification of Surgical Operations and Procedures (OPCS) version 4.2. OPCS has been in use since 1990 and requires updating to reflect changes in clinical practice by allowing the recording of a broader range of interventions.

On 1st April 2006, the NHS in England released OPCS version 4.3 containing an updated set of classifications that expands the old version 4.2 by an additional 1,802 codes (representing a 25% increase). These new codes have been added to most of the existing chapters and there is a new chapter, U- Diagnostic Imaging Testing & Rehabilitation. It is intended to maintain the same structure as in version 4.2 and not to change the meaning of the existing content.

Full implementation of OPCS v4.3 for NHS England, Scotland and Northern Ireland will take place during 2006-07.

It is important to have common data standards between the home countries particularly where there is a need for a cross-border exchange of data that reports Welsh patients treated in English Trusts and English patients treated in Welsh Trusts.

The current Health Resources Grouper (HRG) version 3.5 will continue to be used during 2006-07 facilitated by a process to map OPCS v4.3 codes with HRG version 3.5. In due course, separate guidance will be issued on the use of later versions of HRG groupers.

A project team will be established to manage the implementation of OPCS 4.3 and will be controlled using PRINCE2 methodology. The project manager is Pauline Owens (Consultancy Services (HSW)) (pauline.owens@hsw.wales.nhs.uk).

Implementation of OPCS v4.3 will be undertaken on a phased basis during 2006-07 and this DSCN describes the key actions of the project.

Actions required

Health Solutions Wales & Corporate Health Information Programme

- Health Solutions Wales (HSW) and the Corporate Health Information Programme (CHIP) will undertake joint management of the implementation of OPCS v4.3. HSW will produce a Project Initiation Document (PID) to define the project, the project structure, plan, project deliverables and accountabilities.
- Existing groups will engage in the implementation, including the Trust IM&T Directors Group, the Clinical Coding User Group and the E-Products Group.
- CHIP will fund an order of OPCS v4.3 Reference Books for deployment to Trusts, Local Health Boards, National Public Health Service, and other NHS bodies. Allocation of the reference books will be defined in the PID; organisations will be responsible for funding any required additional copies.
- HSW will prepare and deliver a training programme for all Trust clinical coding staff.
- HSW will undertake any necessary updates to the national database (PEDW) to incorporate OPCS v4.3.
- An education and awareness programme will be developed with the aim of ensuring that the updated classification is effectively used for both coding and analysis purposes.

Trusts

- Trusts will engage with the OPCS v4.3 implementation project, undertaking tasks as defined in the PID in order to achieve implementation during 2006-07.
- Trusts are responsible for ensuring their patient administration systems and encoding systems are upgraded to incorporate OPCS v4.3 by the dates defined in the project plan.
- Trusts using the READ coding system are responsible for ensuring that the mapping to OPCS incorporates the OPCS v4.3 classification.
- Trusts are required to release their clinical coding staff for training by the dates defined in the project plan.
- Trusts are required to engage with their clinical staff to raise awareness of the updated classification in order to maximise the benefits from its introduction.

Effect on the NHS Wales Data Dictionary:

There is no immediate requirement for changes to be made to the current version of the NHS Wales Data Dictionary.

However, during the phased implementation of OPCS v4.3 during 2006-07, it may become necessary to modify areas of the Data Dictionary where there is mention of specific OPCS codes. For example, Appendix J lists the Audit Commission Basket of Daycase Procedures.

Future DSCNs will detail changes to the Data Dictionary in relation of OPCS 4.3

Additional Information:

Please address enquiries about this DSCN to: -

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