

DSC Notice: (2006) 06 (W)
English DSCN equivalent: N/A
Initiating Welsh reference: WHC(2005)078
Date of Issue: 18th May 2006

<p>IRSS Information Requirements and Standards Sub Committee</p>	<p>Subject:</p> <p>Updated guidance for the monthly data returns of Diagnostic and Therapy Services Waiting Times</p> <hr/> <p>Implementation date:</p> <p>Immediate</p>
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DATA SET CHANGE CONTROL PROCEDURE

Summary of change:

This DSCN updates the NHS Wales Data Dictionary in line with WHC (2005)078 regarding the publication of monthly information on waiting times for specified Diagnostic and Therapy Services.

The changes will be included in version 2.12 of the NHS Wales Data Dictionary.

Change Proposal Reference No:
IRSS 20060512/01

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-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) 06 (W)

- Reference:** IRSS 20060512/01
- Subject:** Updated guidance for the monthly data returns of Diagnostic and Therapy Services Waiting Times
- Reason for Change:** To update existing data definitions for monthly Diagnostic and Therapy Services data returns.
- Effective Date:** Immediately

Background:

In May 2003, the National Assembly for Wales published Welsh Health Circular WHC (2003)052, which provided guidance to Welsh NHS Trusts of the arrangements and timetable of the publication of waiting times for specified diagnostic and therapy services.

Health Solutions Wales published Dataset Change Notice DSCN 52/03(W) to complement WHC (2003)052 in detailing the data definitions used for the data submissions. The new data definitions were included in version 2.4 of the NHS Wales Data Dictionary.

Since then, Welsh Health Circular WHC (2005)078 has been published to inform the Trusts of changes to these arrangements and to the timetable. In addition, this Circular informs of other minor changes to data submission requirements. These minor changes to data submission requirements bring with them the need to modify data definitions as published in the current version of the NHS Wales Data Dictionary (v2.10).

In order to align with WHC (2005)078, this DSCN sets out the modifications required of the data definitions related to waiting times for specified diagnostic and therapy services as reference in the NHS Wales Data Dictionary.

Effect on the NHS Wales Data Dictionary:

In summary, WHC (2005)078 requires some changes and additions to existing definitions as follows:

- Where a Trust does not provide a service at a particular site, all rows for that service at that site should be omitted from the submission. Where a Trust does provide a service at a particular site but there are nil patients waiting, a zero should be placed in the relevant weeks wait column for the relevant row.

- The format of the data return spreadsheet column heading 'Period end' has changed from 'ddmmyyyy' to 'yyyymm'. (*Note: Trusts have been submitting Period end data in the format 'yyyymm' since early 2004.*)

In addition, WHC (2005)078 requires changes to textual descriptions of some of the terms used regarding the format of the data return file format.

Effect on the NHS Wales Data Dictionary:

Appendix A contains details of the changes to be made to data definitions in the NHS Wales Data Dictionary.

Additional 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: 029 20502539
Fax: 029 20502504*

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

Appendix A: Changes to the NHS Data Dictionary

Changes to the NHS Wales Data Dictionary are detailed below, with new text being highlighted in **blue** and deletions marked with a ~~strike through~~.

Current navigation to the following page from the Data Dictionary main menu is via:

'Data Items & Terms (Grouped by Data Set)'

→ *'Diagnostic & Therapy Services'*

→ *'DT Monthly Data Collection – Details of Return'*

DT Monthly Data Collection – Details of Return

The collection is returned in a **flatfile Excel** spreadsheet. The file will be identified by the following naming conventions: -

DTxxxmmyy.xls

~~DTxxxmmyy, where~~

Where:

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 Code	Trust Code
Site	Free Text
Service Heading	Service Heading
Service Sub Heading	Service Sub Heading
Weeks Wait	Weeks Wait
Count	Count
Period Ending End	Period Ending End

Reports should be sent to reach Health Solutions Wales **no later than the tenth working day** of each month.

Separate information is required for each site within each of the Trusts' responsibility. ~~Community services, clinics, and home visits should be grouped together in one Community return.~~ The site code 'Community' should be used to record information on waiting times for services provided by community services, clinics, and home visits.

~~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.~~

Where a Trust does not provide a service at a particular site, all rows for that service at that site should be deleted from the submission. Where a Trust does provide a service at a particular site but there are nil patients waiting, a zero should be placed in the relevant weeks wait column for the relevant row

The waiting times will be reported grouped in timebands described in weeks:

Under 6 Over 6	and up to 12	Over 12 and up to 24	Over 24 and up to 36	Over 36and 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 of the census date, which is the last day of each month.

Services

There are 9 services for which data is to be submitted. Within Radiology, GP referrals are submitted separately from consultant referrals. The table below provides a complete list of services and sub headings for which data should be submitted.

Service	Sub heading	Additional Information
Radiology – GP Referral	Barium Enema	Waiting time from a referral request received date until census date.
	C.T.	
	M.R.	
	Non-Obstetric Ultrasound	
	Nuclear Medicine	
Radiology – Consultant Referral	Barium Enema	Patients are removed from the waiting list on the date the diagnostic test for which they are waiting is carried out.
	C.T.	
	M .R.	
	Non-Obstetric Ultrasound	
	Nuclear Medicine	
Cardiology	Stress Test	A stress test is a non-invasive procedure to record the heart's electrical activity during exercise.
	Echo Cardiogram	An echo cardiogram is a non-invasive ultrasound procedure used to diagnose cardiovascular disease. Waiting times from referral request received date until the census date. Patients are removed from the waiting list on the date the diagnostic test for which they have been referred is carried out.
Audiology (Adult Hearing Aids)	Consultant	A hearing aid is described as an externally worn electronic listening device. Waiting times from referral request received date until the census date.
	GP	Patients are removed from the waiting list on the date their hearing aid is fitted.

Service	Sub heading	Additional Information
Dietetics	Adults	<p>Waiting time from referral request received date until the census date.</p> <p>Patients are removed from the waiting list on the Date of Commencement of Episode Care (Diagnostic and Therapy Services).</p>
	Paediatrics	
Physiotherapy	Adults	
	Paediatrics	
Occupational Therapy	Adults	
	Paediatrics	
	Learning Disabilities	
	Mental Health	
Speech Language	Adults	
	Paediatrics	
	Learning Disabilities	
	Mental Health	
Art	Learning Disabilities	
	Mental Health	
Podiatry	Urgent	
	Soon	
	Routine	

Current navigation to the following page from the Data Dictionary main menu is via:

'Data Items (A-Z)'

→ 'Period Ending'

Period ~~Ending~~ End

(DT Waiting Times)

Change History

[DSCN 52/03 \(W\)](#)

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

~~Period Ending 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.~~

This is the census date on which the count is made of people still on a waiting list for a diagnostic or therapy service. The time waited (data item, 'Weeks Wait') should be calculated up to and including this day.

The format for Period End is 'yyyymm'

where

yyyy is the year and mm is the month of the month end date when the waiting list is counted