



**DSC Notice: DSCN (2008) 04 (W)**  
**English DSCN Equivalent: n/a**  
**Initiating Welsh Reference: WHC (2007) 086**  
**Date of Issue: 21<sup>st</sup> May 2008**

<b>WIGSB</b> <b>Welsh Information Governance</b> <b>and Standards Board</b>	<b>Subject: Introduction of Accident and</b> <b>Emergency Definitions</b>
	<b>Implementation date: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008</b>

**DATASET CHANGE CONTROL PROCEDURE**

**Summary of change:**

**Introduction of Accident and Emergency Definitions to support the information requirements used to measure the Annual Operating Framework.**

These changes will be applied in version 2.19 of the NHS Wales Data Dictionary.

<b>WIGSB Reference No:</b> <b>2008051504</b>
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Welsh Information Governance and Standards Board (WIGSB), is responsible for approving information standards.

*Please address enquiries about Dataset 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](mailto:Data.Standards@hsw.wales.nhs.uk)*

*Dataset Change Notices are available via the Intranet Service HOWIS <http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/home.cfm?orgid=299> or by contacting the above address.*

**Draft DSCN numbering format** = (year of draft) 2-character alpha (W).

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

**DSCN number format** = (year of issue) 2-character numeric (W)

In addition,

**WIGSB Reference No. format** = year/month/day/sequence number (relates to when WIGSB approved change)

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Author: Data Standards, HSW

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Version: 1.0

## DSCN Distribution List

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## Document Control

Version:	Changed on:	Owner	Details:
0.01	11/04/2008	Rebecca Wells	Definitions have been progressed through the DSCN sub-group and will be submitted to WIGSB on the 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2008 for Final Approval.
0.02	20/04/2008	Rebecca Wells	DSCN amended following WIGSB Comments.
1.0	21/05/2008	Rebecca Wells	Approved by WIGSB on 15th May 2008; previously known as DSCN (2007) BA (W)

## DATASET CHANGE NOTICE (2008) 04 (W)

**Reference:** WIGSB 2008051504

**Subject:** Introduction of Accident and Emergency Definitions

**Reason for Change:** To support the information requirements used to measure the Annual Operating Framework Targets related to Accident and Emergency Care.

**Implementation Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008

### **Background:**

This DSCN details the definitions that have been developed to support the implementation of targets 2 and 19 of the Annual Operating Framework (AOF) 2008/09. The AOF was published in WHC (2007) 086 and includes details on the 4 hour target for A&E attendances (target 2) and the new target on handover of patients from emergency ambulance to A&E (target 19).

Further DSCNs will be released to document the information flows used to support these Annual Operating Framework Targets.

It has been brought to our attention that the term 'Clinical Handover Time' is often being used to describe the time interval between the Arrival Time and the Clinical Handover Time. This document defines 'Clinical Handover Time' as the point in time when Clinical Handover of the Patient takes place. To avoid confusion the term 'Clinical Handover Time' should only be used officially as defined in this document and elapsed time described using an alternative such as Handover Duration.

**Comment [g1]:** :looking at this we have missed a trick on defining Handover duration – we probably need to add it!

## Definitions

### **Accident and Emergency Attendance**

An Accident and Emergency Attendance is an individual visit by one patient to an Accident and Emergency Department to receive treatment from the Accident and Emergency Service. This service may be provided by staff from other specialties. Such attendances may be as a result of a request from a GP for help with a diagnosis or treatment.

*Note: This excludes attendances at outpatient clinics that are run in the Accident and Emergency Department. These should be recorded within the Outpatient Minimum Dataset.*

### **Accident and Emergency Attendance Category**

Accident and Emergency Attendance Category is an indication of whether a patient is making a first or follow-up attendance at the Accident and Emergency Department.

#### New Attendance:

A new attendance is the first visit made by a patient to an Accident and Emergency Department for a particular injury or ailment. A new attendance can be the first in a series or one single attendance in an Accident and Emergency Department.

A patient returning to the Accident and Emergency Department with a condition previously treated where they have not been asked to return by the clinician will be counted as a new attendance.

#### Follow-up Attendance

A follow up Accident and Emergency Attendance is a subsequent planned attendance at the same department, and for the same incident as the first attendance. A planned follow-up attendance is agreed or requested by a clinician.

**Please note: This definition of an Accident and Emergency Category applies to SITREPS only and differs from that used for QS1 reporting.**

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### **Accident and Emergency Patient**

An Accident and Emergency patient is someone who attends the Accident and Emergency Department without prior appointment who may require clinical attention from the Accident and Emergency clinical staff.

Such attendances may be a result of a request from a GP for help with diagnosis or treatment.

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### **Accident and Emergency Department Type**

#### Accident and Emergency Major Department

Accident and Emergency Major Departments provide consultant led services with appropriate resuscitation facilities and designated accommodation for the reception of Accident and Emergency Patients and can be routinely accessed with or without appointment. These departments must provide the resuscitation, assessment and treatment of acute illness and injury in patients of all ages, and services must be available continuously 24 hours a day.

This department can cover all types of Accident and Emergency Patients and can include single specialty Accident and Emergency Services (e.g. ophthalmology, dental).

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Other Accident and Emergency / Minor Injury Departments

These are defined as all other Accident and Emergency / casualty/ minor injury departments which have designated accommodation for the reception of Accident and Emergency Patients and can be routinely accessed with or without appointment, but which do not meet the criteria above for a Major Accident and Emergency Department.

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**Accident and Emergency Attendance Administrative Arrival Time**

Accident and Emergency Attendance Administrative Arrival time is when the Accident and Emergency reception staff are notified in person that a patient has arrived and needs to be seen within the Accident and Emergency Department. Notification could be by the Ambulance Crew, the patient themselves, or a person accompanying the patient (e.g. relative / friend).

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**Accident and Emergency Attendance Administrative Arrival Date**

Accident and Emergency Attendance Administrative Arrival date is the date the Accident and Emergency reception staff are notified in person that a patient has arrived and needs to be seen within the Accident and Emergency Department. Notification could be by the Ambulance Crew, the patient themselves, or a person accompanying the patient (e.g. relative / friend.)

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**Accident and Emergency Attendance Clinical Handover Time**

Clinical Handover Time is when Accident and Emergency clinical staff take clinical responsibility for the patient.

For patients that arrived at the Accident and Emergency Department via Ambulance, this is the time that the Ambulance Crew are no longer clinically responsible for the patient and are free to return to the ambulance.

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**Accident and Emergency Attendance Clinical Handover Date**

Clinical Handover Date is the date the Accident and Emergency clinical staff take clinical responsibility for the patient.

For patients that arrived at the Accident and Emergency Department via Ambulance, this is the date that the Ambulance Crew are no longer clinically responsible for the patient and are free to return to the ambulance.

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**Accident and Emergency Attendance Administrative End Time**

The time that the patient's Accident and Emergency Attendance Ends.

Accident and Emergency Attendance Administrative End Time is when one of the following criteria is met;

- a) The patient leaves the Accident and Emergency Department to continue their treatment elsewhere, wherever that might be, this is the point of clinical handover;
  - b) The patient no longer requires treatment and is medically fit to leave the department;
  - c) The patient self discharges;
  - d) The patient dies.
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*Note: Leaving the Accident and Emergency Department for a diagnostic test or other treatment does not count as the Accident and Emergency End Time if the patient returns to the Accident and Emergency Department.*

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### **Accident and Emergency Attendance Administrative End Date**

The date that the patient's Accident and Emergency Attendance Ends.

Accident and Emergency Attendance Administrative End Date is the date one of the following criteria is met;

- a) The patient leaves the Accident and Emergency Department to continue their treatment elsewhere, wherever that might be, this is the point of clinical handover;
- b) The patient no longer requires treatment and is medically fit to leave the department;
- c) The patient self discharges;
- d) The patient dies.

*Note: Leaving the Accident and Emergency Department for a diagnostic test or other treatment does not count as the Accident and Emergency End Date if the patient returns to the Accident and Emergency Department.*

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### **Accident and Emergency Attendance Treatment End Time**

Accident and Emergency Attendance Treatment End Time is the time the Accident and Emergency clinical staff have finished treating the patient in their Department.

This is the time that the patient is clinically defined as being;

- a) ready to be discharged
- b) ready to be transferred via ambulance to continue treatment elsewhere
- c) ready for admission onto a ward

OR, the time that the patient self discharges or dies.

*Note: For patients being discharged from the Accident and Emergency Department because they are clinically fit to leave, the Treatment End Time and the Administrative End Time will be the same.*

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### **Accident and Emergency Attendance Treatment End Date**

Accident and Emergency Attendance Treatment End Date is the date the Accident and Emergency clinical staff have finished treating the patient in their Department.

This is the date that the patient is clinically defined as being:

- a) ready to be discharged
- b) ready to be transferred via ambulance to continue treatment elsewhere
- c) ready for admission onto a ward

OR, the date that the patient self discharges or dies.

*Note: For patients being discharged from the Accident and Emergency Department because they are clinically fit to leave, the Treatment End Date and the Administrative End Date will be the same.*

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### **Accident and Emergency Administrative Attendance Duration**

The Total Attendance Duration between the Accident and Emergency Attendance Administrative Arrival Time and the Accident and Emergency Attendance Administrative End Time.

To calculate the Accident and Emergency Administrative Attendance Duration you must take account of Accident and Emergency Attendance Administrative Arrival Date and Accident and Emergency Attendance Administrative End Date.

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### **Accident and Emergency Treatment Attendance Duration**

The Total Attendance Duration between the Accident and Emergency Attendance Clinical Handover Time and the Accident and Emergency Attendance Treatment End Time.

To calculate the Accident and Emergency Treatment Attendance Duration you must take account of the Accident and Emergency Attendance Clinical Handover Date and the Accident and Emergency Attendance Treatment End Date.

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### **Accident and Emergency Handover Duration**

*(This is also referred to as the 'Ambulance Handover Time'.)*

The total duration between the Accident and Emergency Attendance Administrative Arrival Time and the Accident and Emergency Attendance Clinical Handover Time.

To calculate the Accident and Emergency Handover Duration you must take account of the Accident and Emergency Attendance Administrative Arrival Date and the Accident and Emergency Attendance Clinical Handover Date.



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**Additional Information:**

*Please address enquiries about this DSCN to: -*

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