

Edwina Hart AM MBE

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

Our ref: SF/EH/0165/09
EH/ML/006/09

Your ref:



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Chairs of NHS Trusts, Local Health Boards and
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3rd April 2009

Dear Chair,

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT DATA SET (EDDS)

This letter formally communicates to the service the introduction of a new data set to capture activity data from major (24-hour, consultant led) Accident & Emergency Departments across Wales. Specifically, those departments defined as units *“providing consultant led services with appropriate resuscitation facilities and designed accommodation for the reception of the Accident and Emergency Patients that 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.”*

Following formal approval by the Welsh Information Governance and Standards Board (WIGSB) in February 2009, contained at Appendix 1, the first stage rollout of the Emergency Department Data Set will commence from 1 April 2009, with the aim that it will be fully operational by September. The Data Set Change Notice DSCN (2009) 02 (W) gives notification of the relevant definitions and technical information for the required submission to the National Emergency Department Database for Wales.

The EDDS is designed to improve the quality and consistency of emergency department data across Wales. This will enable trusts to meet the relevant information needs of the Directorate of Service Delivery and Performance Management, as well as the information requirements of the All Wales Injury Surveillance System (AWISS), which is sponsored by the Department of Public

Health and Health Professions. This will mean that one common collection of information, rather than two, is mandated to capture essential, pertinent data.

The data set ensures that a submission is made for each patient attendance, new, planned and un-planned, to a major Accident and Emergency Department within Wales for the purposes of performance management and research.

Actions Required

Each NHS Trust with a major Accident & Emergency Department is required to:

- Ensure that the data conforms to the DSCN and is supplied by the 10th of each month for those attendances for the preceding month;
- Submit the data set via the secure file upload facility of the NHS Wales Data Switching Service (NWDSS).
- Review the data quality reports and take appropriate action where necessary.

Monitoring Arrangements

Compliance with these recommendations will be monitored via standard reports, and data quality reports.

Any queries should be directed to:

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I shall be kept apprised of progress and compliance by my officials.

