WELSH INFORMATION STANDARDS BOARD

DSC Notice:	DSCN 2014 / 01
Date of Issue:	3rd March 2014

Ministerial / Official Letter: n/a	**Subject:** The Office of Population Censuses and Surveys Classification of Interventions and Procedures (OPCS) Version 4.7
Sponsor: Head of Information Standards, Welsh Government	
Implementation Date: 1st April 2014	

DATA SET CHANGE NOTICE

A Data Set Change Notice (DSCN) is an information mandate for a new or revised information standard.

This DSCN was approved by the Welsh Information Standards Board (WISB) at its meeting on the 20th February 2014

WISB Reference: ISRN 2014 / 006

Summary:

To introduce version 4.7 of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys Classification of Interventions and Procedures (OPCS) across NHS Wales.

Data sets / returns affected:

Admitted Patient Care Data Set (APC ds)
Outpatient Activity Data Set

Please address enquiries about this Data Set Change Notice to the Data Standards Team in NHS Wales Informatics Service
E-mail: data.standards@wales.nhs.uk / Tel: 029 2050 2539

The Welsh Information Standards Board is responsible for appraising information standards. Submission documents and WISB Outcomes relating to the approval of this standard can be found at:
http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/page.cfm?orgid=742&pid=24632

DATA SET CHANGE NOTICE

Introduction

OPCS-4 is the Office of Population, Censuses and Surveys Classification of Surgical Operations and Procedures (4th revision). This statistical classification translates into code, operations and surgical procedures that can be carried out on a patient during an episode of health care.

OPCS v4.7 is the latest version of this intervention classification to be published by the NHS Classification Service of Health and Social Care Information Centre.

On 19th March 2009, the Welsh Information Governance and Standards Board for NHS Wales (now known as the Welsh Information Standards Board, WISB) approved the implementation of OPCS 4.5. In doing so, it gave its approval for subsequent implementations of OPCS-4, dependant on NHS England Information Standards Board (ISB) approval.

On 15th October 2013 the ISB published Information Standards Notice Amd 10/2013, which updated Information Standard ISB 0084 to mandate OPCS v4.7 from 1st April 2014 in NHS England. This implementation timescale is endorsed by the Welsh Information Standards Board for NHS Wales.

Description of Change

The introduction of OPCS v4.7.

The following table summarises the number of changes introduced in OPCS v4.7 by chapter:

Chapter	No. of New Codes	No. of Codes with Description Changes Only	No. of Retired Codes
A (Nervous System)	8	0	0
B (Endocrine System and Breast)	0	0	0
C (Eye)	8	0	0
D (Ear)	0	0	0
E (Respiratory Tract)	12	0	0
F (Mouth)	1	0	0
G (Upper Digestive Tract)	5	0	0
H (Lower Digestive Tract)	11	0	0
J (Other Abdominal Organs)	0	0	0
K (Heart)	9	0	0
L (Arteries and Veins)	2	0	0
M (Urinary)	4	0	0
N (Male Genital Organs)	3	0	0
P (Lower Female Genital Tract)	1	0	0
Q (Upper Female genital Tract)	0	3	0
R (Female Genital Tract associated with pregnancy, Child Birth, and Puerperium)	6	0	4
S (Skin)	12	0	0
T (Soft Tissue)	7	0	0
U (Diagnostic Imaging, Testing and Rehabilitation)	0	0	0

Chapter	No. of New Codes	No. of Codes with Description Changes Only	No. of Retired Codes
V (Bones and Joints of Skull and Spine)	29	0	0
W (Other Bones and Joints)	10	0	0
X (Miscellaneous Operations)	27	4	6
Y (Subsidiary Classification if Methods of Operation)	17	1	0
Z (Subsidiary Classification of Sites of Operation)	11	0	0
Total	183	8	10

A detailed breakdown of the changes is available at:

http://www.isb.nhs.uk/documents/isb-0084/amd-10-2013/0084102013summ.pdf

Different versions of OPCS -4 apply dependant on the episode end date (Admitted Patient Care data set) or attendance date (outpatient data set) of the submitted record. The valid versions of OPCS-4 allowable in Wales are as follows: -

- Codes from the OPCS 4.2 are valid until 31st March 2006.
- Codes from the OPCS 4.3 are valid from 1st April 2006 until 30th September 2007.
- Codes from the OPCS 4.4 are valid from 1st October 2007 until 31st March 2009.
- Codes from the OPCS 4.5 are valid from 1st April 2009 until 31st March 2011.
- Codes from the OPCS 4.6 are valid from 1st April 2011 until 31st March 2012.
- Codes from the OPCS 4.7 are valid from the 1st April 2014.

Data Dictionary Version

Where applicable, this DSCN reflects changes introduced by DSCN and/or DDCN since the release of version 4.4 of the NHS Wales Data Dictionary.

The changes introduced by such DSCNs will be published in version 4.5 of the NHS Wales Data Dictionary.

Actions Required

Actions for the NHS Wales Informatics Service (NWIS): -

- Ensure affected national applications managed by NWIS, namely Myrddin, CANISC and some instances of the 3M Medicode clinical coding encoding software, are upgraded to support the collection and reporting of OPCS 4.7 codes.

- Introduce the necessary processes and infrastructure to support the use and publication of OPCS v4.7 codes for data users.

  - Ensure all affected national data processing tools, systems and reports (such as the Validation At Source Service, reference data tables, ePEDW and all clinical coding reports) are updated to reflect the implementation of OPCS v4.7.

- Provide all current Welsh clinical coders and information departments with the new OPCS Classification of Interventions and Procedures Version 4.7 (April 2014) Volume I (Tabular List) and Volume II (Alphabetical Index) manuals to existing clinical coders.

- Provide all current Welsh clinical coders with a copy of the new National Clinical Coding Standards: OPCS-4 reference manual.

- Ensure its Clinical Classifications and Business Intelligence teams work collaboratively to ensure all analyses are updated to reflect the introduction of OPCS v4.7.

- Develop materials to facilitate engagement with clinicians and other users to raise awareness of the updated classification in order to maximise the benefits of its introduction.

Actions for Local Health Boards / Trusts:

- Ensure that any 3rd party patient administration systems, other affected IT systems and any associated encoding systems (i.e. those not managed by NWIS) are upgraded to enable the capture and reporting of OPCS v4.7 codes, effective from 1st April 2014, i.e.

    o For the Admitted Patient Care data set, Finished Consultant Episodes (FCEs) with an Episode End Date on or after 1st April 2014.

    o For the Outpatient data set, attendances with an Attendance Date on or after 1st April 2014.

- Ensure Clinical Coding and Information Departments work collaboratively to ensure all analyses are updated to reflect the introduction of OPCS v4.7.

- Engage with clinical and other relevant staff to raise awareness of the updated classification in order to maximise the benefits from its introduction.

- Any LHBs / Trusts using the READ coding system are responsible for ensuring that the mapping to OPCS incorporates the OPCS v4.7 classification.

Actions for Welsh Government (Knowledge & Analytical Services / Performance):

- Ensure any uses such as analysis, publication, grouping and indicator development reflect the introduction of OPCS v4.7 and are appropriately caveated.