

WELSH INFORMATION STANDARDS BOARD

DSC Notice:	DSCN 2017 / 01
Date of Issue:	22 nd March 2017

<p>Ministerial / Official Letter: AC/AS/14/080/A9552379</p>	<p>Subject: Diagnostic and Therapy Services Waiting Times Return</p>
<p>Sponsor: Delivery and Performance Division Department of Health and Social Services Welsh Government</p>	
<p>Implementation Date: PILOT: 1st April 2017</p>	

DATA STANDARDS CHANGE NOTICE

A Data Standards 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 9th March 2017

WISB Reference: ISRN 2014 / 025

Summary:

To reinstate a pilot to collect additional diagnostic tests related to cardiology services for a time limited period.

Data sets / returns affected:

Diagnostic and Therapy Services Waiting Times Return

Please address enquiries about this Data Standards 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 STANDARDS CHANGE NOTICE

Introduction

The Diagnostic and Therapy Services Waiting Times Return was first introduced in May 2003. The purpose of the return is to capture waiting times for specified diagnostic and therapy services for the NHS in Wales.

As part of a Welsh Government programme of work to review Cardiac Referral to Treatment Times, the scope of the Diagnostic and Therapy return was extended for a time limited period to include additional diagnostic tests for Cardiology as per DSCN 2015 / 01.

The reporting of separate waits for the additional diagnostic tests is intended to provide an insight into delays for specific tests which have an impact on Cardiac Referral to Treatment Times.

A review of the initial pilot found that the data was not reported consistently across Wales. Some of the additional tests were already being reported under other service headings such as Radiology. As a result of DSCN 2015 / 01 some health boards removed the data from these headings and added it under the Cardiology service heading whilst others reported the data under both service headings. As a result this impacted on the official Diagnostic and Therapy Services Waiting Times statistics.

This pilot requires the waiting times for the additional cardiac tests to be reported under both the existing service heading as well as the new Cardiology service heading. For example, if "Cardiac Computed Tomography (Cardiac CT)" waits are currently reported under Radiology continue to report the waits under this heading in addition to reporting them under the pilot heading of Cardiology. This is to ensure that the official Diagnostic and Therapy Services Waiting Times statistics are not affected.

The specified services currently within scope of the return can be accessed here:
<http://nww.datadictionary.wales.nhs.uk/WordDocuments/serviceheading.htm>

The sub-divisions of the services which include specific diagnostic tests can be accessed here:
<http://nww.datadictionary.wales.nhs.uk/WordDocuments/servicesubheading.htm>

Description of Change

To reinstate a pilot to collect additional diagnostic tests related to cardiology services for a 12 month period.

Data Dictionary Version

Where applicable, this DSCN reflects changes introduced by DSCN and/or DDCN since the release of version 4.8 of the NHS Wales Data Dictionary.

The changes introduced by such DSCNs will be published in version 4.9 of the NHS Wales Data Dictionary.

Actions Required

Local Health Boards / Trusts:

- Report Diagnostic and Therapy Services Waiting Times as before the 2015 pilot.
- In addition to the above, also report the cardiology diagnostic tests included in the pilot from 1st April 2017.

NHS Wales Informatics Service:

- Update national data processing and validation services (e.g. NHS Wales Data Switching Service and Validation and Source Services) to allow for the reporting of waits for the additional cardiology service sub-headings within the Diagnostic and Therapy Services Waiting Times Return.
- Provide the pilot waiting times data for the cardiology service sub-headings to the Delivery and Performance Division, Welsh Government on a monthly basis.
- Exclude the pilot data from the extract provided to Knowledge and Analytical Services for the official statistical release.

Welsh Government:

- There are no actions for Welsh Government.

Appendix A: Table reflecting areas that are impacted as a result of this DSCN

The following table shows all applicable data sets, data items, terms and other associated areas that are linked with the changes documented within this DSCN.

Each data definition type is listed in alphabetical order and is shown in the sequence in which it appears in this DSCN.

Data Definition Type	Name	New/Retired/Changed	Page Number
Live Aggregate Data Collections	Diagnostic and Therapy Services Waiting Times	New	6

Appendix B: Highlighted changes to be made to the NHS Wales Data Dictionary

Changes to the NHS Wales Data Dictionary are detailed below, with new text being highlighted in **blue** and deletions are shown with a ~~strikethrough~~. The text shaded in **grey** shows existing text copied from the NHS Wales Data Dictionary.

Service Sub Heading

This data item is / was included in the following data sets / collections between the dates shown:

Data Set / Collection	Valid From	Valid To
DT Waiting Times	1 st April 2004	

Sub divisions of the specified services used for the Monthly Collection of Waiting Times of Diagnostic and Therapy Services.

See [Service Heading](#)

Service	Service Sub Heading	Additional Information	Valid From	Valid To
Arts Therapies	Learning Disabilities	Waiting time from waiting list date until the census date.	1 st April 2004	
	Mental Health	Patients are removed from the waiting list on the Date of Commencement of Episode Care (Diagnostic and Therapy Services.)	1 st April 2004	
Audiology (Adult Hearing Aids)	Consultant	A hearing aid is described as an externally worn electrical listening device.	1 st April 2004	
	GP	Waiting times from waiting list date until the census date. Patients are removed from the waiting list on the date their hearing aid is fitted.	1 st April 2004	
Cardiology	Stress Test / Exercise Tolerance Test	A stress test is a non-invasive procedure to record the heart's electrical activity during exercise. Waiting times from waiting list date until the census date.	1 st April 2004	

		Patients are removed from the waiting list on the date the diagnostic test for which they have been referred is carried out.		
	Echo Cardiogram	<p>An echo cardiogram is a non-invasive ultrasound procedure used to diagnose cardiovascular disease.</p> <p>Waiting times from waiting list date until the census date.</p> <p>Patients are removed from the waiting list on the date the diagnostic test for which they have been referred is carried out.</p>	1 st April 2004	
	24 Hour Blood Pressure Monitoring	<p>A non-invasive method of obtaining blood pressure readings over a 24 hour period.</p> <p>Waiting times from waiting list date until the census date.</p> <p>Patients are removed from the waiting list on the date the diagnostic test for which they have been referred is carried out.</p>	<p>1st February 2015*</p> <p>Reinstated 1st April 2017</p>	<p>31st July 2015*</p> <p>31st March 2018</p>
	24 Hour Tape / Holter	<p>A 24 hour tape or holter continuously records the hearts rhythms over a 24 hour period.</p> <p>Waiting times from waiting list date until the census date.</p> <p>Patients are removed from the waiting list on the date the diagnostic test for which they have been referred is carried out.</p>	<p>1st February 2015*</p> <p>Reinstated 1st April 2017</p>	<p>31st July 2015*</p> <p>31st March 2018</p>

	Cardiac Computed Tomography (Cardiac CT)	<p>Cardiac computed tomography is a non-invasive test that uses an x-ray machine to take clear, detailed pictures of the heart.</p> <p>Waiting times from waiting list date until the census date.</p> <p>Patients are removed from the waiting list on the date the diagnostic test for which they have been referred is carried out.</p>	1 st February 2015*	31 st July 2015*
			Reinstated 1 st April 2017	31 st March 2018
	Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Imaging (Cardiac MRI)	<p>Heart magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is an imaging method that uses powerful magnets and radio waves to create pictures of the heart. It does not use radiation (x-rays).</p> <p>Waiting times from waiting list date until the census date.</p> <p>Patients are removed from the waiting list on the date the diagnostic test for which they have been referred is carried out.</p>	1 st February 2015*	31 st July 2015*
			Reinstated 1 st April 2017	31 st March 2018
	Doppler Stress Echocardiogram (DSE)	<p>A stress echo test uses ultrasound technology to assess the flow of blood through vessels in the heart.</p> <p>Waiting times from waiting list date until the census date.</p> <p>Patients are removed from the waiting list on the date the diagnostic test for which they have been referred is carried out.</p>	1 st February 2015*	31 st July 2015*
			Reinstated 1 st April 2017	31 st March 2018
		A myocardial perfusion scan uses a small amount of	1 st February 2015*	31 st July 2015*

Myocardial Perfusion Scanning	<p>a radioactive chemical to see how well blood flows to the muscles of the heart (the myocardium)</p> <p>Waiting times from waiting list date until the census date.</p> <p>Patients are removed from the waiting list on the date the diagnostic test for which they have been referred is carried out.</p>	Reinstated 1 st April 2017	31 st March 2018
Diagnostic Angiography	<p>Angiography is a medical imaging technique used to visualize the inside, or lumen, of blood vessels and organs of the body, with particular interest in the arteries, veins, and the heart chambers.</p> <p>Waiting times from waiting list date until the census date.</p> <p>Patients are removed from the waiting list on the date the diagnostic test for which they have been referred is carried out.</p>	1 st February 2015* Reinstated 1 st April 2017	31 st July 2015* 31 st March 2018
Diagnostic Electrophysiology (EP Study)	<p>An electrophysiology study is a minimally invasive procedure that tests the electrical conduction system of the heart to assess the electrical activity and conduction pathways of the heart.</p> <p>Waiting times from waiting list date until the census date.</p> <p>Patients are removed from the waiting list on the date the diagnostic test for which they have been referred is carried out.</p>	1 st February 2015* Reinstated 1 st April 2017	31 st July 2015* 31 st March 2018

	Trans Oesophageal Echocardiogram (TOE)	<p>A <i>trans oesophageal</i> test is a type of echocardiogram test in which the ultrasound transducer, positioned on an endoscope, is guided down the patient's throat into the oesophagus.</p> <p>Waiting times from waiting list date until the census date.</p> <p>Patients are removed from the waiting list on the date the diagnostic test for which they have been referred is carried out.</p>	1 st February 2015*	31 st July 2015*
			Reinstated 1 st April 2017	31 st March 2018
Diagnostic Endoscopy	Gastroscopy	Endoscopy is the direct visual examination of any part of the interior of the body by means of an optical viewing instrument.	1 st September 2007	
	Flexible Sigmoidoscopy		1 st September 2007	
	Colonoscopy	Waiting time from waiting list date until census date.	1 st September 2007	
	Cystoscopy		1 st September 2007	
	Bronchoscopy		1 st September 2007	
Dietetics	Adults	Waiting time from waiting list date until the census date.	1 st April 2004	
	Paediatrics	Patients are removed from the waiting list on the Date of Commencement of Episode Care (Diagnostic and Therapy Services.)	1 st April 2004	
Imaging	Fluoroscopy	<p>Waiting time from waiting list date until census date.</p> <p>Fluoroscopy is an imaging technique commonly used by physicians to obtain real-time images of the internal structures of a patient through the use of a fluoroscope.</p>	1 st April 2007	
Neurophysiology	Electromyography	Electromyography (EMG) is a diagnostic procedure that measures the electrical	1 st April 2007	

		<p>activity of the muscle to gather information about the muscular system.</p> <p>Waiting time from waiting list date until census date.</p>		
	Nerve Conduction Studies	<p>Nerve Conduction Studies (NCS) measure the function of the peripheral nervous system, i.e. nerves and muscles.</p> <p>Waiting time from waiting list date until census date.</p>	1 st April 2007	
Occupational Therapy	Adults	Waiting time from waiting list date until the census date.	1 st April 2004	
	Paediatrics	Patients are removed from the waiting list on the Date of Commencement of Episode Care (Diagnostic and Therapy Services.)	1 st April 2004	
	Learning Disabilities		1 st April 2004	
	Mental Health		1 st April 2004	
Physiological Measurement	Urodynamic Tests		<p>Urodynamics is an umbrella term describing physiological measurements of the bladder and urethra's ability to fulfil these functions, including pressures & flows.</p> <p>Waiting time from waiting list date until census date.</p>	1 st April 2007
	Vascular Technology	<p>Used to detect abnormalities within the vascular system, assisting a physician's diagnosis and decisions to treat surgically or otherwise.</p> <p>Waiting time from waiting list date until census date.</p>	1 st April 2007	
Physiotherapy	Adults	Waiting time from waiting list date until the census date.	1 st April 2004	
	Paediatrics	Patients are removed from the waiting list on the Date of Commencement of Episode Care (Diagnostic and Therapy Services.)	1 st April 2004	

Podiatry	Urgent	Waiting time from waiting list date until the census date.	1 st April 2004	
	Routine	Patients are removed from the waiting list on the Date of Commencement of Episode Care (Diagnostic and Therapy Services.)	1 st April 2004	
Radiology – GP Referral	Barium Enema	Waiting time from waiting list date until census date.	1 st April 2004	
	Computed Tomography	Patients are removed from the waiting list on the date the diagnostic test for which they are waiting is carried out	1 st April 2004	
	Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)		1 st April 2004	
	Non –Obstetric Ultrasound		1 st April 2004	
	Nuclear Medicine		1 st April 2004	
Radiology – Consultant Referral	Barium Enema	Waiting time from waiting list date until census date.	1 st April 2004	
	Computed Tomography	Patients are removed from the waiting list on the date the diagnostic test for which they are waiting is carried out	1 st April 2004	
	Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)		1 st April 2004	
	Non –Obstetric Ultrasound		1 st April 2004	
	Nuclear Medicine		1 st April 2004	
Speech & Language	Adults	Waiting time from waiting list date until the census date.	1 st September 2004	
	Paediatrics	Patients are removed from the waiting list on the Date of Commencement of Episode Care (Diagnostic and Therapy Services.)	1 st September 2004	
	Learning Disabilities		1 st September 2004	
	Mental Health		1 st September 2004	

* Pilot period for additional cardiology diagnostic tests.