

WELSH INFORMATION STANDARDS BOARD

DSC Notice:	DSCN 2017 / 07
Date of Issue:	18th October 2017

Ministerial / Official Letter: N/A	Subject: Admitted Patient Care Data Set
Sponsor: Martyn Rees, Delivery & Performance, Welsh Government	
Implementation Date: 1st April 2017	

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 8th June 2017

WISB Reference: ISRN 2017 / 015

Summary:

Removal of 'Duration of Elective Wait' data item
Amendment to 'Admission Method' and 'Waiting List Date' data items

Data sets / returns affected:

- APC, OP

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 primary purpose of the Admitted Patient Care (APC) data set is to provide activity figures for admitted care. However, this data set is also used to calculate waiting times for admitted care. Although waiting list data is available in RTT, this data cannot be used to produce waiting time figures for specific procedures (e.g. hip replacements) in response to requests for information as this is only reported at specialty level. An investigation into the quality of the data required to produce these figures found that the quality of the data is not reliable enough to be used for this purpose. This initiated a review of the NHS Wales Data Dictionary definitions associated with the relevant data items. This review highlighted that one data item is surplus to requirements, and that the definitions of two other data items need to be clarified.

The NHS Wales Data Dictionary definition of 'Admission Method' contains two values, namely 14 and 15, which were used in relation to the Welsh Government's 'Second Offer' scheme. This scheme was established to allow NHS healthcare providers to use other providers in an attempt to reduce waiting times for admitted patient care. As this scheme is no longer in operation, these two values have become redundant.

The 'Duration of Elective Wait' data item is essentially defined as the length of time in days between the date when a decision was made to admit the patient and their subsequent date of admission. The Data Dictionary definition of Duration of Elective Wait describes how this is calculated for elective admissions, but it does not specify how it should be populated in other circumstances, such as for emergency admissions. Furthermore, this value can be derived from values submitted in the 'Decision to Admit Date' and 'Admission Date' fields and therefore the Duration of Elective Wait data item is redundant.

'Waiting List Date' is used in both the APC and Outpatient data sets to record the start point of a patient's waiting time. This is usually the same as the original Decision to Admit Date or 'Clinical Referral Date', but this can change, e.g. if the patient fails to attend. The definition of Waiting List Date refers to the Clinical Referral Date only, and is therefore not defined for use in the APC data set.

Description of Change

To update the list of permitted values for 'Admission Method'.

To update the definition for 'Waiting List Date'.

To retire 'Duration of Elective Wait' by populating with spaces to the length format (i.e. four spaces).

Data Dictionary Version

Where applicable, this DSCN reflects changes introduced by DSCN and/or DDCN since the release of version 4.9 of the NHS Wales Data Dictionary.

The changes introduced by such DSCNs will be published in version 4.10 of the NHS Wales Data Dictionary.

Actions Required

Actions for Local Health Boards / Trusts:

- Duration of Elective Wait field to be populated with spaces to the length format (i.e. four spaces) in the APC data submission with effect from 1st April 2017 (i.e. to be applied to data submitted in May 2017)
- Update APC data extract to ensure submissions comply with the amended definitions for Admission Method and Waiting List Date

Actions for NHS Wales Informatics Service:

- Remove the following VASS checks:
 - 50131: Invalid Duration of Elective Wait
 - 50629: Inconsistent Admission Method / Duration of Elective Wait
- Introduce new VASS checks to provide data quality assurance for Waiting List Date
- Update VASS check 50120: Invalid Admission Method to reflect the changes to Admission Method
- Remove the entries in Data Validity and Consistency Reports relating to the above VASS checks.

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

The following table shows where there are changes to the scope and/or definitions of 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
Data Item	Admission Method	Changed	5
Data Item	Duration of Elective Wait	Retired	7
Data Item	Waiting List Date	Changed	8

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.

Changes to Data Items (A-Z)

Admission Method

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

Data Set / Collection	Valid From	Valid To
APC ds99	1 st April 1999	

This is the method of admission to a hospital provider spell. A detailed definition of elective admission is given in Terms (A-Z) – Admission.

Format: 2 digit numeric

Value	Meaning	Valid From	Valid To
Elective Admission	(Not including transfer from other hospital provider, when the decision to admit could be separated in time from the actual admission)		
11	Waiting list	Pre 28 th December 1995	
12	Booked	Pre 28 th December 1995	
13	Planned	Pre 28 th December 1995	
14	Activity under the Welsh Assembly Government 2 nd Offer Scheme (Originating Provider)	1 st April 2006	31 st March 2017
15	Activity under the Welsh Assembly Government 2 nd Offer Scheme (Receiving Provider)	1 st April 2006	31 st March 2017
Emergency Admission			
21	A & E or dental casualty department of the health care provider	Pre 28 th December 1995	
22	GP: after a request for immediate admission has been made direct to a hospital provider (i.e. not through a Bed Bureau) by a General Practitioner or deputy	Pre 28 th December 1995	
23	Bed bureau	Pre 28 th December 1995	
24	Consultant clinic of this or another health care provider	Pre 28 th December 1995	

25	Domiciliary visit by Consultant	Pre 28 th December 1995 Reinstated 1 st May 1998	30 th June 1997
27	Via NHS Direct Services	1 st September 2001	
28	Other means, including admitted from the A & E department of another provider where they had not been admitted	Pre 28 th December 1995	
Maternity Admission			
31	Admitted ante-partum	Pre 28 th December 1995	
32	Admitted post-partum	Pre 28 th December 1995	
Other			
81	Transfer of any admitted patient from other hospital provider. May be used for an elective or emergency transfer from other hospital provider.	Pre 28 th December 1995	
82	The birth of a baby in this health care provider	Pre 28 th December 1995	
83	Baby born outside the health care provider (except when born at home as intended. In this case the baby is an emergency admission. e.g. if midwife's decision to admit the baby use Admission Method 28)	Pre 28 th December 1995	
98	Not Applicable	1 st May 1998	20 th January 2002
99	Not Known	Pre 28 th December 1995	20 th January 2002
See Originating Provider See Receiving Provider			

Duration of Elective Wait

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

Data Set / Collection	Valid From	Valid To
APC ds99	1 st April 1999	31st March 2017 †

This is the waiting time from the date of the decision to admit to the provider where the treatment actually takes place, to the date of admission. Normally this is the number of days between [Decision to Admit Date](#) and the admission date ([Start Date of Provider Spell](#)) of the patient's elective admission to the hospital provider.

A waiting time of 0 days is only to be entered after careful scrutiny. An example where this would apply could be where a patient attends an out-patient clinic and it is decided that a day case procedure may be carried out on the same day and there must also be a bed available and the consultant has a zero wait for this procedure (N.B this is a "booked admission" with Admission Method =12).

Format: 4 digit numeric

Value	Meaning	Valid From	Valid To
NNNN	0000 - 8887 (in days) entered as right justified with preceding zeros	1 st May 1998	31st March 2017 †
NNNN	No of days (0000 – 8999)	Pre 28 th December 1995	30 th April 1998
9998	Not applicable	Pre 28 th December 1995	31st March 2017 †
9999	Not known (i.e. no date known for decision to admit): a validation error	1 st May 1998	20 th January 2002

† The field must be populated with spaces to the length format (i.e. four spaces)

Waiting List Date (WLD)

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

Data Set / Collection	Valid From	Valid To
APC ds99	1 st April 1999	
OP ds	1 st April 1999	
EAL ds	1 st April 1999	21 st November 2012

For APC:-

For elective admissions the Waiting List Date (WLD) is initially set to the same date as the Decision to Admit Date. For all other admissions (Emergency, Maternity and Other admissions) the WLD should be blank.

The Decision to Admit Date can never change. In contrast, there are a number of situations where the WLD can be changed. These include reinstatement to a waiting list following removal, or where a patient has chosen to remain with a consultant when offered an earlier appointment with a different consultant.

The circumstances where the WLD can be changed along with the rules for calculating the WLD can be found in the 'Guide to Good Practice – Elective Services' (September 2005) Chapter 2.

For OP:-

The Waiting List Date (WLD) is initially set to the same date as the Clinical Referral Date, but for emergency OP appointments and for follow up appointments the WLD should be blank.

The Clinical Referral Date (CRD) date can never change. In contrast, there are a number of situations where the WLD can be changed. These include rescheduling an appointment at the patient's request, reinstatement to a waiting list following removal, or where a patient has chosen to remain with a consultant when offered an earlier appointment with a different consultant.

The circumstances where the WLD can be changed along with the rules for calculating the WLD can be found in the 'Guide to Good Practice – Elective Services' (September 2005) Chapter 2.

The Waiting List Date (WLD) is set initially as the same date as the Clinical Referral Date. The WLD is used to calculate waiting times for the purpose of measuring Local Health Board/Trust performance against Welsh Assembly Government performance targets. It is not used to order outpatient waiting lists for partial booking or to order inpatient or daycase lists for selection of patients' surgery.

There are a number of situations where the WLD may be changed. These include rescheduling an appointment at the patient's request, reinstatement to a waiting list following removal, or where a patient has chosen to remain with a consultant when offered an earlier appointment with a different consultant. The circumstances where the WLD may be changed are covered in the various definitions in the 'Guide to Good Practice—Elective Services' (September 2005) Chapter 2.2 Page 19—28.

The Clinical Referral Date (CRD) date is never changed. The WLD may change.

In OP ds and APC ds, Emergency admissions or emergency OP appointments the WLD will remain blank.

In OP ds the WLD will remain blank for follow up appointments

The rules on calculating the WLD can be found in 'Guide to Good Practice—Elective Services' Chapter 2

Format: 8 digit numeric, CCYYMMDD
