

WELSH INFORMATION STANDARDS BOARD

DSC Notice:	DSCN 2018 / 02
Date of Issue:	19 th March 2018

Ministerial / Official Letter:	Subject: Diagnostic and Therapy Services Waiting Times Return
Sponsor: Andrew Sallows Delivery & Performance Division Welsh Government	
Implementation Date: 1 st April 2018	

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 21st February 2018

WISB Reference: ISRN 2014 / 025

Summary:

To officially establish the additional cardiac tests in the Diagnostic and Therapy Services Waiting Times return as reportable waits.

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 Services Waiting Times Return was extended for a time limited period to include additional diagnostic tests for Cardiology as per DSCN 2015 / 01 (first pilot) and DSCN 2017 / 01 (second pilot)

The reporting of separate waits for the additional diagnostic tests is intended to provide an insight into delays for specific tests that have an impact on overall 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. Therefore, for the second pilot health boards were required to report the waiting times for additional cardiac tests under both the existing service heading as well as the new Cardiology service heading but NOT to formally report on them in any official statistics publications.

As a result of both pilots, it was agreed to extend the scope of the Diagnostic and Therapies return to officially establish the additional cardiac tests as reportable waits from 1st April 2018, and to provide clarity for some Radiology Sub Specialties so as to specifically refer only to non-cardiac cases and hence remove the danger of double-counting. This will result in the following changes:

Increasing the scope of the Diagnostic and Therapies Waiting Times Return to include the following cardiac tests in official reports:

- Blood Pressure Monitoring*
- Heart Rhythm Recording*
- Cardiac Computed Tomography (Cardiac CT)*
- Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Imaging (Cardiac MRI)*
- Dobutamine Stress Echocardiogram (DSE)*
- Myocardial Perfusion Scanning*
- Diagnostic Angiography*
- Diagnostic Electrophysiology (EP Study)*
- Trans Oesophageal Echocardiogram (TOE)*

and

Amending the following Sub Specialties (within Radiology Specialties) to provide greater clarity:

- Computed Tomography to Non Cardiac Computed Tomography
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) to Non Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
- Nuclear Medicine to Non Cardiac Nuclear Medicine

* Previously part of the pilot for additional cardiology diagnostic tests

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

Local Health Boards / Trusts:

- Report the cardiology diagnostic tests as they appear in Appendix B from April 1st 2018.
- Apply the additional clarity provided for some Radiology Sub Specialties

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, using the existing extract.

Welsh Government:

- Update process to be able to accept data for the new diagnostic tests.
- Include a note in publications to summarise impact of expected changes.

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 Heading

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	
DT Waiting Times		

Name of specified diagnostic and therapy services included in the monthly collection of Waiting Times data.

Specified services and therapies are: -

Arts Therapies

Audiology

Cardiology

Diagnostic Endoscopy

Dietetics

Imaging

Neurophysiology

Occupational Therapy

Physiological measurement

Physiotherapy

Podiatry

Radiology – GP Referral

Radiology – Consultant Referral

Speech & Language

These are sub-divided into [Service Sub Headings](#)

Service	Service Sub Heading	Additional Information	Valid From	Valid To
Arts Therapies	Learning Disabilities		1 st April 2004	

	Mental Health	<p>Waiting time from waiting list date until the census date.</p> <p>Patients are removed from the waiting list on the Date of Commencement of Episode Care (Diagnostic and Therapy Services.)</p>	1 st April 2004	
Audiology (Adult Hearing Aids)	Consultant	<p>A hearing aid is described as an externally worn electrical listening device.</p>	1 st April 2004	
	GP	<p>Waiting times from waiting list date until the census date.</p> <p>Patients are removed from the waiting list on the date their hearing aid is fitted.</p>	1 st April 2004	
Cardiology	Stress Test / Exercise Tolerance Test	<p>A stress test is a non-invasive procedure to record the heart's electrical activity during exercise.</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	
	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>	1 st February 2015*	31 st July 2015*
		1 st April 2017**	31 st March 2018**
Blood Pressure Monitoring	<p>A recording over 24 hours or more of patient's blood pressure readings by the fitting of a monitor.</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 2018	
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>	1 st February 2015*	31 st July 2015*
		1 st April 2017**	31 st March 2018**
Heart Rhythm Recording	<p>Any recording of heart rhythm made over a period of 24 hours or more requiring a patient to be fitted or implanted with a recorder and a period of</p>	1 st April 2018	

		<p>analysis and reporting to be undertaken.</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>		
	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>	<p>1st February 2015*</p> <p>1st April 2017**</p>	<p>31st July 2015*</p> <p>31st March 2018**</p>
		<p>Cardiac computed tomography is an investigation undertaken using a high resolution fast acquisition ECG gated CT scanner to image the heart especially the coronary arteries</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 April 2018</p>	
	Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Imaging (Cardiac MRI)	<p>Heart magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is an imaging method that uses powerful magnets and</p>	<p>1st February 2015*</p> <p>1st April 2017**</p>	<p>31st July 2015*</p> <p>31st March 2018**</p>

	<p>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 April 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*
		1 st April 2017**	31 st March 2018**
Dobutamine Stress Echocardiogram (DSE)	<p>A dobutamine stress echo is an ultrasound imaging technique used to assess the heart when myocardial oxygen demand is increased using either physical or pharmacological stress.</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 2018	
Myocardial Perfusion Scanning	<p>A myocardial perfusion scan uses a small amount of a radioactive chemical to see how well blood</p>	1 st February 2015*	31 st July 2015*
		1 st April 2017**	31 st March 2018**

		<p>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>		
		<p>A myocardial perfusion scan uses a gamma camera to image the heart using a small amount of radioactive isotope to assess how well blood flows to the muscle of the heart (the <i>myocardium</i>)</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 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>	<p>1st February 2015*</p> <p>1st April 2017**</p>	<p>31st July 2015*</p> <p>31st March 2018**</p>
		<p>Angiography is an x-ray guided medical imaging</p>	1 st April 2018	

		<p>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>		
	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*	31 st July 2015*
			1 st April 2017**	31 st March 2018**
		<p>An electrophysiology study is an x-ray guided procedure that investigates the electrical conduction system of the heart to assess the electrical activity and conduction pathways.</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</p>	1 st April 2018	

		which they have been referred is carried out.		
	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*
			1 st April 2017**	31 st March 2018**
		<p>A trans oesophageal echocardiogram is a type of echocardiogram in which the ultrasound transducer, is guided down the patient's throat into the oesophagus and stomach to allow for clearer imaging of certain cardiac and surrounding structures.</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 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	Waiting time from waiting list date until census date. 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.	1 st April 2007	
Neurophysiology	Electromyography	Electromyography (EMG) is a diagnostic procedure that measures the electrical activity of the muscle to gather information about the muscular system. Waiting time from waiting list date until census date.	1 st April 2007	
	Nerve Conduction Studies	Nerve Conduction Studies (NCS) measure the function of the peripheral nervous system, i.e. nerves and muscles. Waiting time from waiting list date until census date.	1 st April 2007	
Occupational Therapy	Adults	Waiting time from waiting list date until the census date.	1 st April 2004	
	Paediatrics		1 st April 2004	
	Learning Disabilities	Patients are removed from the waiting list on the Date of Commencement of Episode Care (Diagnostic and Therapy Services.)	1 st April 2004	
	Mental Health		1 st April 2004	

Physiological Measurement	Urodynamic Tests	Urodynamics is an umbrella term describing physiological measurements of the bladder and urethra's ability to fulfil these functions, including pressures & flows. Waiting time from waiting list date until census date.	1 st April 2007	
	Vascular Technology	Used to detect abnormalities within the vascular system, assisting a physician's diagnosis and decisions to treat surgically or otherwise. Waiting time from waiting list date until census date.	1 st April 2007	
Physiotherapy	Adults	Waiting time from waiting list date until the census date. Patients are removed from the waiting list on the Date of Commencement of Episode Care (Diagnostic and Therapy Services.)	1 st April 2004	
	Paediatrics		1 st April 2004	
Podiatry	Urgent	Waiting time from waiting list date until the census date. Patients are removed from the waiting list on the Date of Commencement of Episode Care (Diagnostic and Therapy Services.)	1 st April 2004	
	Routine		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	31 st March 2018
	Non Cardiac Computed Tomography		1 st April 2018	
	Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)		1 st April 2004	31 st March 2018

	Non Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)		1 st April 2018	
	Non -Obstetric Ultrasound		1 st April 2004	
	Nuclear Medicine		1 st April 2004	31 st March 2018
	Non Cardiac Nuclear Medicine		1 st April 2018	
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	31 st March 2018
	Non Cardiac Computed Tomography		1 st April 2018	
	Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)		1 st April 2004	31 st March 2018
	Non Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)		1 st April 2018	
	Non -Obstetric Ultrasound		1 st April 2004	
	Nuclear Medicine		1 st April 2004	31 st March 2018
	Non Cardiac Nuclear Medicine		1 st April 2018	
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.

** Further pilot for additional cardiology diagnostic tests.

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	1st April 2004	

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

See [Service Heading](#)