

Sponsor:	Implementation Date: Immediate
Department of Health	Subject: Diagnostic Waiting Times and Activity
DATA SET CHANGE NOTICE	
<p>This paper informs users of changes to mandatory national data collections or data flows that have been approved by the NHS Information Standards Board.</p> <p>This change has the approval of ROCR (ref ROCR/OR/0168/001)</p>	
Summary:	
<p>Amendments to diagnostics monthly and census returns</p> <p>This DSCN implements changes to current data standards for the diagnostics waiting times and activity dataset and central returns. These changes are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Amend the numbers and definitions of tests to be included in monthly returns to include a wider range of audiology tests2. To increase the frequency of the diagnostic census to be quarterly, rather than biannual <p>This DSCN is in two parts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Part 1 provides detailed policy information needed to implement the change2. Part 2 provides the definitional, technical and modelling detail that will be included in the NHS Data Dictionary	
Datasets / return affected:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Diagnostic waiting times and activity data standard2. Monthly diagnostics return3. Diagnostic census	
Impact of Change:	
Service: Minor / Major	System Suppliers: Minor / Major
<p>The NHS Information Standards Board (ISB) is responsible for approving information standards. The ISB output related to the assurance and sign-off of this standard can be found at – www.isb.nhs.uk/docs/dscn03-2007output.pdf</p> <p>The ISB submission documents relating to the approval of this standard can be found at http://www.isb.nhs.uk/docs/Diagnostics Change Submission V1.0 Jan 07.pdf</p> <p>More information about the ISB can be found at www.isb.nhs.uk Data set change notices can be found at www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/dscn</p>	

DATA SET CHANGE NOTICE

Reference No:	DSCN 03/2007, Change Proposal CP 811 ROCR/OR/0168/001
Version No:	1.1
Subject:	Diagnostic Waiting Times and Activity
Type of Change:	Notification of a change to an Information Standard
Implementation Date:	Immediate
Business Justification:	To improve monitoring of PSA targets
Effect on other Information Standards:	None

Introduction

Amendments to diagnostics monthly and census returns

This DSCN implements changes to current data standards for the diagnostics waiting times and activity dataset and central returns. These changes:

1. Amend the numbers and definitions of tests to be included in monthly returns to include a wider range of audiology tests
2. To increase the frequency of the diagnostic census to be quarterly, rather than biannual

Background

The NHS Improvement Plan stated “By 2008, no one will have to wait longer than 18 weeks from GP referral to hospital treatment...” – which for the first time includes waiting for diagnostics. It is therefore necessary for DH to measure diagnostic waits and activity to monitor progress towards delivery of this very high profile target (ref: PSA 13).

Diagnostic waiting times, along with Inpatient and Outpatient waiting times are the 3 stages of treatment that the NHS has planned for as part of Local Delivery Plans (LDPs) towards achieving the 18-week target.

This means that identifying long waits for diagnostics is a vital step towards monitoring the referral to treatment pathway and driving down unacceptably long waits for patients. LDPs make commitments for reducing the number of patients waiting over 13 weeks (March 07) and over 6 weeks (March 08) for diagnostic tests and procedures.

The 15 tests previously collected monthly only cover around 50% of the total number of long waits for diagnostic tests. The rest are picked up in the diagnostic census. As the monthly collection only covers half of the long waiters, this does not effectively monitor progress against the milestones. Therefore, it is necessary to amend the collection to cover a higher proportion of long waiters, and to increase the frequency of the census to measure remainder of the long waiters.

The standard provides definitions to support the national data collections on diagnostic tests, a key element towards monitoring waits from referral to treatment. These collections have 2 elements

1. A monthly return covering 15 key diagnostic tests
2. A quarterly census covering all other diagnostic tests.

Details of Change

As stated above, it is necessary to amend the collection to cover a higher proportion of long waiters, and to increase the frequency of the census to measure remainder of the long waiters.

This will be achieved as follows.

- a) Keep the current list of 15 tests, but replace the line on Pure Tone Audiometry with a line that covers key audiology assessments. This will increase coverage to around 80-85% of long waiters.
- b) Collect the diagnostics census on a more frequent basis, firstly by adding a census in December 06. Through learning from the first census in February, the list of tests has been streamlined to reduce the burden on the NHS. This has been achieved by grouping similar tests together, and removing some duplication with the monthly return. The number of tests collected has been reduced from around 400 to 225

The purpose of the collection remains unchanged.

Full guidance can be found on Unify at the following address.

http://nww.steis.doh.nhs.uk/steis/access_disc.nsf/News/343FD7407D3ED6748025720B0040FCBA?OpenDocument

Sponsor Details

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National Director – 18 weeks
Department of Health
Richmond House*

Further Information and Support

MB-PPrt-Diagnostics@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Unify <http://nww.unify.dh.nhs.uk/unify/interface/homepage.aspx>

Unify Helpdesk : 0113 254 6278

Change Request

NHS Connecting for Health

NHS Data Model and Dictionary Service

Reference:	Change Request 811
Version No:	1.1
Subject:	Diagnostic Monthly Census
Type of Change:	Changes to NHS Data Standards
Effective Date:	Immediate
Reason for Change:	Data standards to support the collection of Diagnostic Waiting Times and Activity

Background:

The NHS Improvement Plan stated "By 2008, no one will have to wait longer than 18 weeks from GP referral to hospital treatment..." which for the first time includes waiting for diagnostics. It is therefore necessary for DH to measure diagnostic waits and activity to monitor progress towards delivery of this very high profile target (ref: PSA 13).

Diagnostic waiting times, along with Inpatient and Outpatient waiting times are the 3 stages of treatment that the NHS has planned for as part of Local Delivery Plans (LDPs) towards achieving the 18-week target.

This means that identifying long waits for diagnostics is a vital step towards monitoring the referral to treatment pathway and driving down unacceptably long waits for patients. LDPs make commitments for reducing the number of patients waiting over 13 weeks (March 07) and over 6 weeks (March 08) for diagnostic tests and procedures.

The 15 tests previously collected monthly only cover around 50% of the total number of long waits for diagnostic tests. The rest are picked up in the diagnostic census. As the monthly collection only covers half of the long waiters, this does not effectively monitor progress against the milestones. Therefore, it is necessary to amend the collection to cover a higher proportion of long waiters, and to increase the frequency of the census to measure remainder of the long waiters.

The standard provides definitions to support the national data collections on diagnostic tests, a key element towards monitoring waits from referral to treatment. These collections have 2 elements

1. A monthly return covering 15 key diagnostic tests
2. A quarterly census covering all other diagnostic tests.

This paper provides data standards to support the monthly return, with data standards for the quarterly collection to follow.

Patients waiting for diagnostics tests will also appear on admitted patient and out-patient returns should the following circumstances apply:

For a diagnostic test as part of an admission the Patient is counted for KH07.

For a diagnostic test to be delivered by a Consultant in out-patients, the Patient is counted on the QM08 return if this is the first appointment following the GP Referral Request.

Summary of changes:

Data Elements

DIAGNOSTIC TEST (ENDOSCOPY)	New Data Element
DIAGNOSTIC TEST (IMAGING)	New Data Element
DIAGNOSTIC TEST (PHYSIOLOGICAL MEASUREMENT)	New Data Element
NUMBER OF WEEKS	Change to Name
NUMBER OF WEEKS renamed DIAGNOSTICS REPORTING TIME BAND	Change to Aliases
PATIENTS WAITING FOR DIAGNOSTIC TEST	Change to Description

Dataset

DIAGNOSTIC WAITING TIMES AND ACTIVITY	Deleted
DIAGNOSTICS WAITING TIMES & ACTIVITY DATASET	New Dataset

Date: 26 January 2007

Sponsor: Nick Chapman, National Director - 18 weeks, Department of Health

Note: New text is shown with a blue background. Deleted text is crossed out. Within the Diagrams deleted classes and relationships are red, changed items are blue and new items are green.

DIAGNOSTIC WAITING TIMES AND ACTIVITY

Change to Dataset: DeletedDeleted

DIAGNOSTICS WAITING TIMES & ACTIVITY DATASET

Change to Dataset: New Dataset

Diagnostics Waiting Times & Activity Dataset

The Diagnostic waiting times reporting of the monthly waiting times and activity reporting (DM01).

The diagnostic investigations are grouped into categories of Imaging, Physiological Measurement and Endoscopy.

The distinctions between these groups are not absolute and some procedures could be collected under more than one of the clinical groupings. A PATIENT waiting for a diagnostic investigation should be counted only once for each test they are waiting for, wherever the test is to be performed and even if there is any additional therapeutic intervention. Each test should be identified by their OPCS coding where applicable.

The column headed Opt (Optionality) shows whether the data element is Mandatory M or Optional O.

Opt	Diagnostic Waiting Times		
M	REPORTING PERIOD START DATE		
M	ORGANISATION CODE (CODE OF PROVIDER)		
M	ORGANISATION NAME		

Patients Still Waiting - at month end
Imaging divided into Magnetic Resonance Imaging, Computer Tomography, Non-obstetric ultrasound, Barium Enema and DEXA scans
Many occurrences of this Group are permitted.

M	DIAGNOSTIC TEST (IMAGING)		
M	DIAGNOSTICS REPORTING TIME BAND		
M	PATIENTS WAITING FOR DIAGNOSTIC TEST		

Patients still waiting - at month end.

Physiological Measurement divided into Audiology - audiological assessments, Cardiology - echocardiography and electrophysiology, Neurophysiology - peripheral neurophysiology, Respiratory physiology - sleep studies and Urodynamics - pressures & flows. Many occurrences of this group are permitted.

M	DIAGNOSTIC TEST (PHYSIOLOGICAL MEASUREMENT)		
M	DIAGNOSTICS REPORTING TIME BAND		
M	PATIENTS WAITING FOR DIAGNOSTIC TEST		

Patients still waiting - at month end. Endoscopy divided into Colonoscopy, Flexi sigmoidoscopy, Cystoscopy and Gastroscopy. Many occurrences of this group are permitted.

M	DIAGNOSTIC TEST (ENDOSCOPY)		
M	DIAGNOSTICS REPORTING TIME BAND		
M	PATIENTS WAITING FOR DIAGNOSTIC TEST		

Activity - number of tests/procedures carried out during the month. Imaging divided into Magnetic Resonance Imaging, Computer Tomography, Non-obstetric ultrasound, Barium Enema and DEXA scans Many occurrences of this group are permitted.

M	DIAGNOSTIC TEST (IMAGING)		
M	WAITING LIST DIAGNOSTIC TESTS DONE		
M	PLANNED DIAGNOSTIC TESTS DONE		
M	UNSCHEDULED DIAGNOSTIC TESTS DONE		
M	DIAGNOSTIC TESTS DONE TOTAL		
M	DIAGNOSTIC TESTS COMMISSIONED FROM INDEPENDENT SECTOR		

Activity - number of tests/procedures carried out during the month Physiological Measurement divided into Audiology - audiological assessments, Cardiology - echocardiography and electrophysiology, Neurophysiology - peripheral neurophysiology, Respiratory physiology - sleep studies and Urodynamics - pressures & flows. Many occurrences of this group are permitted.

M	DIAGNOSTIC TEST (PHYSIOLOGICAL MEASUREMENT)		
M	WAITING LIST DIAGNOSTIC TESTS DONE		
M	PLANNED DIAGNOSTIC TESTS DONE		
M	UNSCHEDULED DIAGNOSTIC TESTS DONE		
M	DIAGNOSTIC TESTS DONE TOTAL		
M	DIAGNOSTIC TESTS COMMISSIONED FROM INDEPENDENT SECTOR		

Activity - number of tests/procedures carried out during the month Endoscopy divided into Colonoscopy, Flexi sigmoidoscopy, Cystoscopy and Gastroscopy. Many occurrences of this group are permitted.

M	DIAGNOSTIC TEST (ENDOSCOPY)		
M	WAITING LIST DIAGNOSTIC TESTS DONE		
M	PLANNED DIAGNOSTIC TESTS DONE		
M	UNSCHEDULED DIAGNOSTIC TESTS DONE		
M	DIAGNOSTIC TESTS DONE TOTAL		
M	DIAGNOSTIC TESTS COMMISSIONED FROM INDEPENDENT SECTOR		

DIAGNOSTIC TEST (ENDOSCOPY)

Change to Data Element: New Data Element

DIAGNOSTIC TEST (ENDOSCOPY)

Format/length:	an5
HES item:	
National Codes:	
Default Codes:	

Notes:

This is the intended or actual endoscopy diagnostic test or procedure split by Colonoscopy, Flexi sigmoidoscopy, Cystoscopy and Gastroscopy for a SERVICE REQUEST derived from the CLINICAL CLASSIFICATION OPCS 4 codes listed in the Department of Health document 'Diagnostics waiting times and activity: Guidance on completing the "diagnostic waiting times & activity" monthly data collection.

References:

Department of Health: Monthly and Quarterly/Biannual Diagnostics statistics

This data element is also known by these names:

Context	Alias
plural	DIAGNOSTIC TESTS (ENDOSCOPY)

DIAGNOSTIC TEST (IMAGING)

Change to Data Element: New Data Element

DIAGNOSTIC TEST (IMAGING)

Format/length:	an5
HES item:	
National Codes:	
Default Codes:	

Notes:

This is the intended or actual Imaging Test or Procedure split by Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), Computed Tomography (CT) scan, Non-obstetric ultrasound, Barium Enema and DEXA scan for a SERVICE REQUEST derived from the CLINICAL CLASSIFICATION OPCS 4 codes listed in the Department of Health document 'Diagnostics waiting times and activity: Guidance on completing the "diagnostic waiting times & activity" monthly data collection.

References:

Department of Health: Monthly and Quarterly/Biannual Diagnostics statistics

This data element is also known by these names:

Context	Alias

plural

DIAGNOSTIC TESTS (IMAGING)

DIAGNOSTIC TEST (PHYSIOLOGICAL MEASUREMENT)

Change to Data Element: New Data Element

DIAGNOSTIC TEST (PHYSIOLOGICAL MEASUREMENT)

Format/length: an5

HES item:

National Codes:

Default Codes:

Notes:

This is the intended or actual physiological measurement diagnostic test or procedure split by Audiology - audiological assessments, Cardiology - echocardiography and electrophysiology, Neurophysiology - peripheral neurophysiology, Respiratory physiology - sleep studies, Urodynamics - pressures and flows for a SERVICE REQUEST derived from the CLINICAL CLASSIFICATION OPCS 4 codes listed in the Department of Health document 'Diagnostics waiting times and activity: Guidance on completing the "diagnostic waiting times & activity" monthly data collection.

References:

Department of Health: Monthly and Quarterly/Biannual Diagnostics statistics

This data element is also known by these names:

Context	Alias
plural	DIAGNOSTIC TESTS (PHYSIOLOGICAL MEASUREMENT)

NUMBER OF WEEKS

Change to Data Element: Change to Name

~~NUMBER OF WEEKS~~ DIAGNOSTICS REPORTING TIME BAND

NUMBER OF WEEKS renamed DIAGNOSTICS REPORTING TIME BAND

Change to Data Element: Change to Aliases

Format/length: character 5

Format/length: character 6

HES item:

National Codes:

Default Codes:

Notes:

~~The time band for the number of weeks wait being reported on. This is expressed as below:~~ The time band for reporting on diagnostics waiting times and activity and diagnostics census.

For monthly reporting of diagnostic waiting times and activity, this is expressed as below:

- 0 less than 1 week
- 00-<01 less than 1 week
- ~~01-04~~ ~~1 to less than 4 weeks~~
- 01-<02 1 to less than 2 weeks
- ~~04-09~~ ~~at least 4 weeks to less than 9 weeks~~
- 02-<03 2 weeks to less than 3 weeks
- ~~09-18~~ ~~at least 9 weeks to less than 18 weeks~~
- 03-<04 3 weeks to less than 4 weeks
- etc.
- 04-<05 4 weeks to less than 5 weeks
- 05-<06 5 weeks to less than 6 weeks
- 06-<07 6 weeks to less than 7 weeks
- 07-<08 7 weeks to less than 8 weeks
- 08-<09 8 weeks to less than 9 weeks
- 09-<10 9 weeks to less than 10 weeks
- 10-<11 10 weeks to less than 11 weeks
- 11-<12 11 weeks to less than 12 weeks
- 12-<13 12 weeks to less than 13 weeks
- 13-<14 13 weeks to less than 14 weeks
- 14-<15 14 weeks to less than 15 weeks
- 15-<16 15 weeks to less than 16 weeks
- 16-<17 17 weeks to less than 18 weeks
- 18-<19 18 weeks to less than 19 weeks
- 19-<20 19 weeks to less than 20 weeks
- 20-<21 20 weeks to less than 21 weeks
- 21-<22 21 weeks to less than 22 weeks
- 22-<23 22 weeks to less than 23 weeks
- 23-<24 23 weeks to less than 24 weeks
- 24-<25 24 weeks to less than 25 weeks
- 25-<26 25 weeks to less than 26 weeks
- 26+ 26 weeks or more

This data element is also known by these names:

Context	Alias
plural	NUMBERS OF WEEKS
plural	DIAGNOSTICS REPORTING TIME BAND

PATIENTS WAITING FOR DIAGNOSTIC TEST

Change to Data Element: Change to Description

Format/length:	n4
HES item:	
National Codes:	

Default Codes:

Notes:

This is the number of PATIENTS waiting for a NUMBER OF WEEKS for the particular test or investigation. This is the number of PATIENTS that have been waiting for a time within a DIAGNOSTICS REPORTING TIME BAND for the particular test or investigation.

This is derived from the SERVICE REQUEST DATE of the SERVICE REQUEST to the REPORTING PERIOD END DATE or the APPOINTMENT DATE of the last missed APPOINTMENT (if reset due to missed or cancelled APPOINTMENT where ATTENDED OR DID NOT ATTEND are codes 2 *Appointment cancelled by, or on behalf of, the PATIENT*, 3 *Did not attend - no advance warning given* or 7 *PATIENT arrived late and could not be seen*) to the REPORTING PERIOD END DATE.

For pathology diagnostic tests, the total waiting time is measured from the SERVICE REQUEST DATE to the INVESTIGATION RESULT DATE. For other diagnostic test waiting times, it is measured from the SERVICE REQUEST DATE to the Clinical Intervention Date of the CLINICAL INTERVENTION.

This data element is also known by these names:

Context	Alias
plural	PATIENTS WAITING FOR DIAGNOSTIC TESTS

Enquiries concerning the DM01 monthly dataset should be directed to
Planning and Performance Review Team
Department of Health
Room 4E57,
Quarry House,
Quarry Hill,
LEEDS
LS2 7UE
Email: mb-pprt-diagnostics@dh.gsi.gov.uk

For enquiries about this DSCN please email datastandards@nhs.net