

<b>Sponsoring Organisation:</b>		<b>Implementation Date:</b>	Immediate
<b>Department of Health</b>		<b>Subject:</b>	
		<b>Central Return: Diagnostics Waiting Times Census Data Set</b>	
<b>DATA SET CHANGE NOTICE</b>			
<p>This paper informs users of changes to mandatory national data collections or data flows that have been approved by the Information Standards Board for Health and Social Care (ISB H&amp;SC).</p> <p>This change has the approval of ROCR (ref ROCR/OR/0168/FT6/002)</p>			
<b>Summary:</b>			
<p>This DSCN provides the definitional, technical and modelling detail that will be included in the NHS Data Model and Dictionary for the Diagnostics Waiting Times Census Data Set for central collection - NHS Data Model and Dictionary Change Proposal CP 812.</p> <p>This DSCN does not change the content of the standard introduced in DSCN 03/2007.</p>			
<b>Datasets / return affected:</b>			
Diagnostic Waiting Times Census Data Set			
<b>Related DSCNs:</b>			
DSCN 03/2007			
<b>Impact of Change:</b>			
<b>Service:</b> Not Applicable		<b>System Suppliers:</b> Not Applicable	
<p>The Information Standards Board for Health and Social Care (ISB H&amp;SC) is responsible for approving information standards. ISB H&amp;SC output and submission documents relating to the approval of this standard can be found at: <a href="http://www.isb.nhs.uk/docs/diagnostics">http://www.isb.nhs.uk/docs/diagnostics</a></p>			

## Change Request

### NHS Connecting for Health

#### NHS Data Model and Dictionary Service

<b>Reference:</b>	Change Request 812
<b>Version No:</b>	1.0
<b>Subject:</b>	Diagnostics Waiting Times Census Data Set
<b>Type of Change:</b>	Changes to NHS Data Standards
<b>Effective Date:</b>	Immediate
<b>Reason for Change:</b>	Data Standards to support the collection of Diagnostics Waiting Times Census

#### 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 the Department of Health to measure diagnostic waits and activity to monitor progress towards delivery of this very high profile target (ref: Public Service Agreement (PSA) target 13).

Diagnostics 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 monthly return of key diagnostic tests only cover around 70% 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 a proportion of the long waiters, this does not effectively monitor progress against the milestones. Therefore, it is necessary to collect the diagnostic census on a quarterly basis to measure the 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 (DM01)
2. A diagnostics waiting times census covering all other diagnostic tests.

This paper provides data standards to support the diagnostics waiting times census.

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 the Admitted Patient Flows Data Set.

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

#### Summary of changes:

##### Data Elements

<a href="#">DIAGNOSTIC TEST (ENDOSCOPY CENSUS)</a>	New Data Element
<a href="#">DIAGNOSTICS REPORTING TIME BAND</a>	Change to Aliases
<a href="#">DIAGNOSTIC TEST (IMAGING CENSUS)</a>	New Data Element
<a href="#">DIAGNOSTIC TEST (PATHOLOGY CENSUS)</a>	New Data Element
<a href="#">DIAGNOSTIC TEST (PHYSIOLOGICAL MEASUREMENT CENSUS)</a>	New Data Element

[PATIENTS WAITING FOR DIAGNOSTIC TEST](#)  
[REPORTING PERIOD END DATE](#)  
[REPORTING PERIOD START DATE](#)

Change to Description  
 Change to Relationships  
 Change to Relationships

**Dataset**

[DIAGNOSTICS WAITING TIMES CENSUS DATA SET](#)

New Dataset

**Supporting Information**

[DIAGNOSTICS WAITING TIMES CENSUS DATA SET OVERVIEW](#)

New Supporting Information

**Date:** 30 January 2008

**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.

**DIAGNOSTICS WAITING TIMES CENSUS DATA SET**

Change to Dataset: New Dataset

[Diagnostics Waiting Times Census Data Set](#)

[Diagnostics Waiting Times Census Data Set Overview](#)

The Diagnostic Census of the waiting times for DIAGNOSTIC TEST REQUESTS.

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

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	Data Set Data Elements
M	ORGANISATION CODE (CODE OF COMMISSIONER)
M	ORGANISATION CODE (CODE OF PROVIDER)
M	REPORTING PERIOD START DATE
M	REPORTING PERIOD END DATE
<b>Patients Still Waiting - at census</b> <b>Endoscopy</b> Many occurrences of this Group are permitted.	
M	DIAGNOSTIC TEST (ENDOSCOPY CENSUS)
M	DIAGNOSTICS REPORTING TIME BAND
M	PATIENTS WAITING FOR DIAGNOSTIC TEST
<b>Patients still waiting - at census.</b> <b>Imaging</b> Many occurrences of this group are permitted.	
M	DIAGNOSTIC TEST (IMAGING CENSUS)
M	DIAGNOSTICS REPORTING TIME BAND

M	PATIENTS WAITING FOR DIAGNOSTIC TEST
<b>Patients still waiting - at census.</b> <b>Pathology</b> <b>Many occurrences of this group are permitted.</b>	
M	DIAGNOSTIC TEST (PATHOLOGY CENSUS)
M	DIAGNOSTICS REPORTING TIME BAND
M	PATIENTS WAITING FOR DIAGNOSTIC TEST
<b>Patients still waiting - at census.</b> <b>Physiological Measurement</b> <b>Many occurrences of this group are permitted.</b>	
M	DIAGNOSTIC TEST (PHYSIOLOGICAL MEASUREMENT CENSUS)
M	DIAGNOSTICS REPORTING TIME BAND
M	PATIENTS WAITING FOR DIAGNOSTIC TEST

## DIAGNOSTICS WAITING TIMES CENSUS DATA SET OVERVIEW

Change to Supporting Information: New Supporting Information

### Diagnosics Waiting Times Census Data Set Overview

The data set provides definitions to support the national census on DIAGNOSTIC TESTS, a key element towards monitoring waits from referral to treatment. This is a census reporting the diagnostic test waiting times.

The data set provides definitions to support the national data collections on DIAGNOSTIC TESTS, a key element towards monitoring waits from referral to treatment. This is a census of DIAGNOSTIC TEST waiting times.

This data set is for the census covering 4 main areas of DIAGNOSTIC TESTS as below:

Part 1 - Endoscopy

Part 2 - Imaging

Part 3 - Pathology

Parts 4 to 11 - Physiological Measurement

### Patient level information

Information is to be submitted onto the Unify database that has been developed and maintained by the Department of Health. All PATIENTS waiting for a DIAGNOSTIC TEST/procedure funded by the NHS should be included. This includes all referral routes (i.e. whether the PATIENT was referred by a GENERAL PRACTITIONER or by a hospital-based clinician or other route) and also all settings (i.e. Out-Patient Clinic, WARD, Imaging Department, GP Practice, one-stop centres etc.). It is recognised that there will be some overlap between PATIENTS reported on this census and PATIENTS reported in the inpatient and outpatient waiting times returns.

### How the data set is transmitted

Full guidance on Unify2 can be found at the following address:

[Unify2 Guidance](#)

### Further guidance

Guidance on extracting the data sets, including OPCS Classification of Interventions & Procedures, can be found at:

and

NHS 18 weeks - Guidance on Diagnostic Data Collections.

## DIAGNOSTIC TEST (ENDOSCOPY CENSUS)

Change to Data Element: New Data Element

### DIAGNOSTIC TEST (ENDOSCOPY CENSUS)

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

#### Notes:

This is the intended endoscopy DIAGNOSTIC TEST or procedure (CLINICAL INTERVENTION) split by test grouping of SERVICE REQUESTS derived from the CLINICAL CLASSIFICATION OPCS 4 codes listed in the Department of Health document 'Diagnostics Census: Guidance on completing the "diagnostic waiting times" census.

#### This data element is also known by these names:

Context	Alias
plural	DIAGNOSTIC TESTS (ENDOSCOPY CENSUS)

## DIAGNOSTICS REPORTING TIME BAND

Change to Data Element: Change to Aliases

Format/length:	character 6
HES item:	
National Codes:	
Default Codes:	

#### Notes:

~~The time band for reporting on diagnostics waiting times and activity and diagnostics census.~~ The time band for reporting on Diagnostics Waiting Times & Activity Data Set and Diagnostics Waiting Times Census Data Set.

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

- 00-<01 less than 1 week
- 01-<02 1 to less than 2 weeks
- 02-<03 2 weeks to less than 3 weeks
- 03-<04 3 weeks to less than 4 weeks
- 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

For the diagnostic waiting times census, this is expressed as below:

- 06-<13 6 weeks to less than 13 weeks
- 13+ 13 weeks or more

This data element is also known by these names:

Context	Alias
plural	<del>DIAGNOSTICS REPORTING TIME BAND</del>
plural	DIAGNOSTICS REPORTING TIME BANDS

## DIAGNOSTIC TEST (IMAGING CENSUS)

Change to Data Element: New Data Element

### DIAGNOSTIC TEST (IMAGING CENSUS)

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

#### Notes:

This is the intended imaging DIAGNOSTIC TEST or procedure (CLINICAL INTERVENTION) split by test grouping of SERVICE REQUESTS derived from the CLINICAL CLASSIFICATION OPCS 4 codes listed in the Department of Health document 'Diagnostics Census: Guidance on completing the "diagnostic waiting times" census.

This data element is also known by these names:

Context	Alias
plural	DIAGNOSTIC TESTS (IMAGING CENSUS)

## DIAGNOSTIC TEST (PATHOLOGY CENSUS)

Change to Data Element: New Data Element

### DIAGNOSTIC TEST (PATHOLOGY CENSUS)

Format/length:	an5
HES item:	
National Codes:	

Default Codes:

**Notes:**

This is the intended pathology DIAGNOSTIC TEST or procedure (CLINICAL INTERVENTION) split by test grouping of SERVICE REQUESTS derived from the CLINICAL CLASSIFICATION OPCS 4 codes listed in the Department of Health document 'Diagnostics Census: Guidance on completing the "diagnostic waiting times" census.

**This data element is also known by these names:**

Context	Alias
plural	DIAGNOSTIC TESTS (PATHOLOGY CENSUS)

**DIAGNOSTIC TEST (PHYSIOLOGICAL MEASUREMENT CENSUS)**

Change to Data Element: New Data Element

DIAGNOSTIC TEST (PHYSIOLOGICAL MEASUREMENT CENSUS)

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

**Notes:**

This is the intended physiological measurement DIAGNOSTIC TEST or procedure (CLINICAL INTERVENTION) split by test grouping of SERVICE REQUESTS derived from the CLINICAL CLASSIFICATION OPCS 4 codes listed in the Department of Health document 'Diagnostics Census: Guidance on completing the "diagnostic waiting times" census.

**This data element is also known by these names:**

Context	Alias
plural	DIAGNOSTIC TESTS (PHYSIOLOGICAL MEASUREMENT CENSUS)

**PATIENTS WAITING FOR DIAGNOSTIC TEST**

Change to Data Element: Change to Description

Format/length:	n4
Format/length:	n6
HES item:	
National Codes:	
Default Codes:	

**Notes:**

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

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### REPORTING PERIOD END DATE

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Change to Data Element: Change to Relationships

[Ink REPORTING PERIOD END DATE \(created\)](#)

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### REPORTING PERIOD START DATE

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Change to Data Element: Change to Relationships

[Ink REPORTING PERIOD START DATE \(created\)](#)

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For enquiries about this Data Set Change Notice, please email [datastandards@nhs.net](mailto:datastandards@nhs.net)