

Sponsoring Organisation:	Implementation Date:	Immediate
Department of Health	Subject: Central Return: 18 Weeks 'Adjusted' Referral to Treatment (RTT) Dataset	
DATA SET CHANGE NOTICE		
<p>This paper mandates the introduction of a national dataset and central return. These changes were approved by the Information Standards Board for Health and Social Care (ISB HaSC) at its meeting on 25th June 2008</p> <p>The burden of collection has been agreed by the Review of Central Returns Steering Committee (ROCR) - ROCR No: ROCR/OR/0186/FT6/002.</p>		
Summary:		
<p>This DSCN informs the NHS and its systems suppliers of changes to information standards to support the collection of a central return for adjusted admitted RTT pathways. This supports DSCN 05/2008 in which the principle of the clock pause and adjusted admitted RTT return were approved.</p> <p>The 18 weeks rules suite published in November 2007 announced that the RTT clock for patients where a decision to admit for treatment had been made that, the clock could be paused to take into account delays introduced when patients turn down offers of admission made with reasonable notice. The clock pauses will be reflected in the collection of a mandatory monthly 18 weeks 'adjusted' admitted RTT data collection. This is in addition to the existing 18 weeks referral to treatment monthly data collection for admitted pathways.</p> <p>It is mandatory to submit an 'adjusted' admitted RTT return. Where a provider aims to deliver patient choice by driving down all waiting times to within the operational tolerance rather than implementing clock pauses, they would still be required to submit an adjusted admitted return. This return would be the same as the unadjusted admitted RTT return. In this instance providers should be aware this approach might compromise their performance, since 18 weeks performance will be assessed using the 'adjusted' admitted RTT return.</p> <p>The adjusted monthly RTT collection will be submitted through Unify2.</p> <p>This DSCN should be read by all providers and commissioners of health care to patients on an 18 weeks pathway, and specifically 18 weeks leads and information departments.</p> <p>As the 18 weeks clock rules have been in place since November 2007, the changes contained within this DSCN are effective immediately.</p> <p>This DSCN is in two parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Part one contains the detailed policy information needed to implement the change• Part two provides the technical modelling for this dataset to be included in the NHS Data Model and Dictionary		
Datasets / return affected:		
18 weeks referral to treatment (RTT) times monthly data collection		
Related DSCNs:		
05/2008, 30/2007, 18/2007, 09/2007, 18/2006, 17/2006		
Impact of Change:		
Service:	Major	System Suppliers: Major
<p>The Information Standards Board for Health and Social Care (ISB HaSC) is responsible for approving information standards. Submission documents and the ISB HaSC Board output relating to the approval of this standard can be found at:</p> <p>www.isb.nhs.uk/docs/18weeksadj</p>		

DATA SET CHANGE NOTICE

Reference No:	DSCN 14/2008 ROCR/OR/0186/FT6/002
Version No:	1.1
Subject:	18 Weeks 'Adjusted' Referral to Treatment (RTT) Dataset
Type of Change:	Mandatory data collection
Implementation Date:	Immediate
Business Justification:	To support an agreed government manifesto, Public Service Agreement (PSA) target and the NHS Operating Framework 18 weeks referral to treatment (RTT) time monthly data collection

Introduction

The 18 weeks rules refresh announced that RTT clocks for patients with a decision to admit for treatment could be paused to take into account delays introduced when a patient turned down an offer of admission made with reasonable notice.

DSCN 05/2008 informed the NHS and their system suppliers of the changes required to support the introduction of clock pauses as introduced in the refreshed 18 weeks clock rules contained within the 18 Weeks Rules Suite.

The purpose of this DSCN is to inform the NHS and their system suppliers of the introduction of a mandatory central return to record the clock pause through the collection of a monthly central return for 'adjusted' admitted RTT data.

Delivery of the December 2008 target for admitted pathways (90% within 18 weeks) will be assessed on an adjusted basis i.e. excluding any periods of clock pause.

Background

It is recognised that for some patients, 18 weeks is inconvenient or clinically inappropriate. Namely, this relates to the following types of patients:

- Patient choice – patients who choose not to accept the earliest offered appointment along their pathway or choose to delay treatment.
- Co-operation – patients who do not attend appointments along their pathway.
- Clinical exceptions – patients with clinically complex conditions and/or co-morbidities that are unsuitable to be treated within 18 weeks.

It is intended to support these three categories of patients through a combination of adjustments and an operational tolerance.

The introduction of the 18 weeks 'Adjusted' Referral to Treatment (RTT) Time monthly central return allows providers to submit adjusted admitted RTT data that reflects the introduction of clock pauses to recognise patient choice at admission. This adjusted data will therefore provide an accurate picture of performance for the December 2008 target, and will be the assessment method for delivery of the December 2008 target.

Details of Change

Full details of the changes and the associated technical modelling of the dataset in the NHS Data Model and Dictionary, are contained in part two of this DSCN – Change Request 964

The data will be collected using a new section added to the Unify2 data collection tool. This new section mirrors part 1a of the existing data collection but includes completed adjusted RTT times for admitted patients, i.e. RTT times which exclude any period of clock pauses on the admitted phase of the pathway due to patient initiated delay.

Queries about this tool should be made via e-mail to the Unify2 mailbox unify2@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Scope

The RTT data collection supports delivery of the 18 weeks target (PSA target 13) and specifically, the new section will monitor adjusted RTT times for completed admitted pathways.

The central return will be used to reflect adjustments of RTT periods for patients where:

- a decision to admit for treatment has been made
- the patient has turned down at least two reasonable offers for admission made with reasonable notice
- the RTT clock has been paused to take into account a patient initiated delay

The submission of adjusted data collection was enabled through Unify2 on a voluntary basis from January 2008.

Organisations should continue to submit the existing RTT monthly return (for unadjusted admitted pathways (Part 1a), non-admitted pathways (Part 1b) and incomplete pathways (Part 2)) through Unify2. The facility to submit adjusted RTT times is via a separate monthly data collection template within Unify2.

Data for completed admitted pathways will be submitted on the adjusted data form. Where a clock pause was applied along the pathway, the adjusted RTT time should be reported. For pathways where no clock pause occurred, the unadjusted RTT time should be reported. The total number of completed pathways reported in the adjusted data monthly form should equal the total number of completed pathways reported in Part 1a (completed admitted pathways) of the usual monthly RTT return.

It is mandatory to submit both an adjusted and unadjusted admitted RTT monthly central return. Should a provider choose to reflect patient initiated delays at admission for treatment within the operational tolerance rather than submitting an adjusted admitted RTT return, they should be aware that this would compromise performance; since performance will be assessed using the adjusted admitted return. Where adjustments for clock pauses are not recorded, the provider should submit the same information for both the adjusted and unadjusted admitted RTT monthly return.

Out of scope

Clock pause adjustments do not apply to non-admitted pathways. Adjustments cannot be applied for a diagnostic or any other admission prior to the admission for first definitive treatment. Instead the elements of patient co-operation and clinical exception will be covered by the operational tolerance. Where a patient chooses to delay admission for a diagnostic this should be managed with the operational tolerance.

Any pathways that are not subject to 18 weeks RTT target are out of scope.

Timescales for Implementation / Change

FRAMEWORK		Health and Social Care Personnel	Organisation ¹	IT Suppliers ²
Effective Date ³ "may use"		Immediate		
Implementation Date ⁴ "must use"	Collection Start Date ⁵	Immediate		
	First Submission Date ⁶	In line with existing Unify 2 submission cycle		
	Reporting Period / Submission Cycle ⁷			
Conformance Date ⁸ "must be used effectively and assessed for use"		Immediate		
Superseded Date (of prior standard) ⁹ "stop using prior standard"		Not Applicable		

Effects on Other Information Standards

None

Sponsor Details

Nick Chapman, National Director 18 weeks, RSU Account Director, Department of Health.

Further Information and Support

The following links provide additional guidance:

- 18 weeks rules suite "How to Measure" guide

www.18weeks.nhs.uk/Asset.ashx?path=/Rules%20suite/18weeksRulesSuite_HowToMeasure_280208.doc

- The 18 weeks rules suite - 'How to apply' guide:

www.18weeks.nhs.uk/Asset.ashx?path=/Rules%20suite/18weeksRulesSuite_HowToApply_280208.pdf

- For further advice visit the 18 weeks website at:

<http://www.18weeks.nhs.uk/Content.aspx?path=/>

- Unify2 website, guidance and submission template

<http://nwww.unify2.dh.nhs.uk>

Further information is available by e-mail to: data18weeks@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Technical queries should be sent to the Unify2 mailbox: unify2@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Notes on Timeline Table:

1. Relevant organisations are those organisations as defined in the standard who must take direct action to implement the standard
2. IT Suppliers are all suppliers to the organisations listed at ¹ who supply functionality pertinent to that standard
3. **Effective Date** is the date from which a new standard can be used but may not be mandatory. This might facilitate piloting, for example, or enable time for system functionality development. At this point, **you “may use” the standard.**
4. **Implementation Date** is the point from which the new standard becomes mandatory. Ideally, it inherently implies organisations use appropriate systems i.e. the date is the same for organisations and suppliers. However, there may be circumstances where interim workarounds are required i.e. the date is different for organisations and suppliers. At this date, **you “must use” the standard.** Where the standard demands data is submitted centrally, sub components of implementation date (and possibly ‘effective date’) are:
 5. **Collection Start Date** – this is the date collection of data must begin
 6. **First Submission Date** – this is the date of first submission of data centrally
 7. **Reporting Period / Submission Cycle** – If the standard calls for further collection and submission at defined intervals, this cell provides text of the reporting period (e.g. calendar month, financial year) and the submission cycle (e.g. submit data monthly on the 10th working day of the subsequent month).
8. **Conformance Date** is the date from which the service and IT system suppliers must use the standard as envisaged i.e. using appropriate IT solutions rather than interim workarounds and, if the standard requires it, an independent, authoritative body or legitimate internal audit would conduct a conformity assessment with the expectation of full conformance by all relevant parties. It is the **“must use standard effectively and assessed for use”** date
9. **Superseded Date** of the prior standard sets the date at which the prior standard is replaced by the new standard i.e. the prior standard must no longer be used. This date will apply only where there was a pre-existing standard made redundant by the new standard. It might be different from preceding dates in the framework if, for example, a new and old standard run in parallel for a period. It is the date from which you **“stop using the prior standard”**.

Change Request

NHS Connecting for Health

NHS Data Model and Dictionary Service

Reference:	Change Request 964
Version No:	1.0
Subject:	Referral To Treatment Period Adjusted
Type of Change:	Change to Data Standards
Effective Date:	Immediate
Reason for Change:	The Referral to Treatment Data Set requires updating to include adjusted waits.

Background:

The 18 weeks rules refresh published in November 2007 announced that the Referral to Treatment Period clock for admitted patients could be adjusted to include delays introduced following patient refusal of reasonable offers of admission.

This Data Set Change Notice implements changes to the NHS Data Model and Dictionary to support the implementation of Data Set Change Notice 05/2008 - 18 Weeks Rules Suite, which introduced the principle of the clock pause and the adjusted admitted Referral To Treatment Period Data Set.

Delivery of the March 2008 milestone and the December 2008 target for admitted pathways will be assessed on an adjusted basis, i.e. excluding any periods of clock pause.

Summary of changes:

Data Elements

REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD COMPLETED BY ADMITTED PATIENT WITHIN TIME BAND NUMBER	Change to Name
REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD COMPLETED BY ADMITTED PATIENT WITHIN TIME BAND NUMBER renamed REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD COMPLETED BY ADMITTED PATIENT WITHIN TIME BAND NUMBER (UNADJUSTED)	Change to Description
REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD COMPLETED BY ADMITTED PATIENT WITHIN TIME BAND NUMBER (ADJUSTED)	New Data Element

Dataset

REFERRAL TO TREATMENT DATA SET	Change to Table
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Date: 10 June 2008

Sponsor: Nick Chapman, National Director 18 Weeks, RSU Account Director, 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.

REFERRAL TO TREATMENT DATA SET

Change to Dataset: Change to Table

Referral to Treatment Data to support delivery of 18 week waiting times

Referral To Treatment Data Set Overview

Data Set Data Elements**Organisation and Reporting Period**

REPORTING PERIOD START DATE

REPORTING PERIOD END DATE

ORGANISATION CODE (CODE OF PROVIDER)

ORGANISATION CODE (CODE OF COMMISSIONER)

Part 1A - Length of referral to treatment period for patients whose 18 week clock stopped during the month by an inpatient/day case admission
 To carry the total length of REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD with no adjustments made. Where there are no waiting lengths in the Reporting Period for all the sub-groups for the TREATMENT FUNCTION CODE (REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD) then no length of referral to treatment period should be recorded for it.

Part 1A i - Length of referral to treatment period for patients whose 18 week clock stopped during the month by an inpatient/day case admission
 To carry the total length of REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD with no adjustments made. Where there are no waiting lengths in the Reporting Period for all the sub-groups for the TREATMENT FUNCTION CODE (REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD) then no length of referral to treatment period should be recorded for it.

TREATMENT FUNCTION CODE (REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD)

REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD TIME BAND

~~REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD COMPLETED BY ADMITTED PATIENT WITHIN TIME BAND NUMBER~~

REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD COMPLETED BY ADMITTED PATIENT WITHIN TIME BAND NUMBER (UNADJUSTED)

Part 1A ii - Length of referral to treatment period for patients whose 18 week clock stopped during the month by an inpatient/day case admission
 To carry the total length of REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD where adjustments have been made. Where there are no waiting lengths in the Reporting Period for all the sub-groups for the TREATMENT FUNCTION CODE (REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD) then no length of referral to treatment period should be recorded for it.

TREATMENT FUNCTION CODE (REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD)

REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD TIME BAND

REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD COMPLETED BY ADMITTED PATIENT WITHIN TIME BAND NUMBER (ADJUSTED)

Part 1B - Length of referral to treatment period for patients whose 18 week clock stopped during the month for reasons other than an inpatient/day case admission
 To carry the total length of REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD with no adjustments made. Where there are no waiting lengths in the Reporting Period for all the sub-groups for the TREATMENT FUNCTION CODE (REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD) then no length of referral to treatment period should be recorded for it.

TREATMENT FUNCTION CODE (REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD)

REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD TIME BAND

REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD COMPLETED BY NON-ADMITTED PATIENT WITHIN TIME BAND NUMBER

Part 2 - Length of referral to treatment period for patients whose 18 week clock is still running during the month
 To carry the length of REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD so far with no adjustments made. Where there are no waiting lengths in the Reporting Period for all the sub-groups for the TREATMENT FUNCTION CODE (REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD) then no length of referral to treatment period should be recorded for it.

TREATMENT FUNCTION CODE (REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD)

REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD TIME BAND

REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD INCOMPLETE WITHIN TIME BAND NUMBER

REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD COMPLETED BY ADMITTED PATIENT WITHIN TIME BAND NUMBER

Change to Data Element: Change to Name

~~REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD COMPLETED BY ADMITTED PATIENT WITHIN TIME BAND NUMBER~~ REFERRAL

TO TREATMENT PERIOD COMPLETED BY ADMITTED PATIENT WITHIN TIME BAND NUMBER (UNADJUSTED)

REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD COMPLETED BY ADMITTED PATIENT WITHIN TIME BAND NUMBER renamed **REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD COMPLETED BY ADMITTED PATIENT WITHIN TIME BAND NUMBER (UNADJUSTED)**

Change to Data Element: Change to Description

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

Notes:

~~The number of completed REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIODS during the reporting month where the PATIENT was referred to a CONSULTANT and where a Hospital Provider Spell ACTIVITY ended the REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD reported by REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD TIME BAND and TREATMENT FUNCTION CODE (REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD).~~

~~The number of completed weeks is the period from the REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD START DATE and the REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD END DATE.~~

~~That is the number of REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIODS where:~~

~~a. the REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD has a REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD END DATE within the REPORTING PERIOD.~~

~~and~~

~~b. the SERVICE REQUEST is made to a CONSULTANT ORGANISATION~~

~~and~~

~~c. the ACTIVITY is a SERVICE PROVIDED UNDER AGREEMENT~~

~~i.e. only commissioned care is included, private patients and patients from overseas are excluded.~~

~~and~~

~~d. the ACTIVITY that ends the REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD is a Hospital Provider Spell.~~

The number of completed REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIODS during the REPORTING PERIOD reported by

- the REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD TIME BAND of the REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD DURATION (UNADJUSTED) in completed weeks

and

- TREATMENT FUNCTION CODE (REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD).

This data element is also known by these names:

Context	Alias
plural	REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD COMPLETED BY ADMITTED PATIENT WITHIN TIME BAND NUMBERS
plural	REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD COMPLETED BY ADMITTED PATIENT WITHIN TIME BAND NUMBERS (UNADJUSTED)

REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD COMPLETED BY ADMITTED PATIENT WITHIN TIME BAND NUMBER (ADJUSTED)

Change to Data Element: New Data Element

REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD COMPLETED BY ADMITTED PATIENT WITHIN TIME BAND NUMBER (ADJUSTED)

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

Notes:

The number of completed REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIODS during the REPORTING PERIOD reported by

- the REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD TIME BAND of the REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD DURATION (ADJUSTED) in completed weeks
- and
- TREATMENT FUNCTION CODE (REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD).

This data element is also known by these names:

Context	Alias
plural	REFERRAL TO TREATMENT PERIOD COMPLETED BY ADMITTED PATIENT WITHIN TIME BAND NUMBERS (ADJUSTED)

For enquiries about this Data Set Change Notice please contact datastandards@nhs.net