

DATA SET CHANGE NOTICE

Reference No:	DSCN 23/2008
Version No:	1.0
Subject:	4 Byte Version of the Read Codes
Type of Change:	Withdrawal
Implementation Date:	30th September 2009
Business Justification:	The strategic terminology solution for the National Programme for IT (NPfIT) in the NHS is SNOMED CT®. There are significant structural issues with the 4 Byte Version of Read codes, which now has a very small user base. The effort being put into maintaining this version is considered to be disproportionate to the benefits realised; withdrawal of support will encourage any remaining users onto a migration path towards improved solutions.

Introduction

The 4 Byte Version of Read Codes is Crown Copyright and issued under license to the NHS and system suppliers. The UK Terminology Centre (UKTC) issues licenses for this and other versions of Read Codes and distributes updated versions to licensees on a regular basis. The UKTC business plan 2007/8 states the following: *'To reduce the burden of maintaining several different terminologies it is intended to stop maintaining the less widely used 4-byte set within 18 months (subject to satisfactory investigation)'.*

Repeated notification to licensees and wide ranging investigation have confirmed the small user base and have failed to elicit any responses indicating that withdrawal of support, and therefore the standard, will result in negative clinical and/or business impact. Organisations were first notified of the proposed plan to withdraw support in September 2007 and support mechanisms are in place via the data standards helpdesk to assist any remaining users.

Withdrawal of UKTC support means that the 4 Byte Version of Read Codes will no longer be maintained, increasing the risks of using it in clinical record systems and for other NHS business purposes. This DSCN is being issued to notify the NHS and suppliers that they should not now introduce the 4 Byte Version of Read Codes into systems and should cease to use this version from 31 October 2009.

NOTE: The 4Byte Version of Read Codes was in widespread use in General Practice before it was largely replaced by Version 2 of the Read Codes (i.e. a 'de facto' standard) and is regarded as an Inherited Information Standard by the Information Standards Board for Health and Social Care.

Background

The Read Codes were initially developed in the mid-1980s, as the 4 Byte Set for use in General Practice. The codes were subsequently adapted for use in hospitals, and were extended to allow more detail, leading to Version 2 of the Read Codes which was released in 1990. Clinical Terms Version 3 (CTV3) was developed as a result of the Clinical Terms Projects, which ran from 1992 to 1995 and was first released in 1994. This version introduced a new, more complex structure, allowing greater coverage and flexibility. A further enhancement at the start of the new millennium saw the collaboration between the College of American Pathologists and the NHS, to create SNOMED CT (Systematised Nomenclature of Medicine Clinical Terms), a more dynamic, and ontologically based terminology product.

SNOMED CT is now the strategic solution for the standard terminology for use in the National Programme for IT (NPfIT). in the NHS However, there is a wide user base and business dependency of many organisations on the Read Codes therefore it is essential that the Read Codes are maintained for the immediate future. This requirement is largely for Version 2 and Clinical Terms Version 3 (Read Codes) rather than the 4 Byte set for which there is a very limited user base.

Details of Change

After April 2009, there will be no new versions of the 4 Byte Read Codes issued; the effective date for withdrawal of support will be October 2009, the date when the next update would have been released.

The 4 Byte Drug and Appliance Dictionary will NOT be affected by this withdrawal. Other code sets maintained by the UKTC such as Version 2 of the Read codes, and Clinical Terms Version 3 (Read Codes) are not affected.

Changes to the NHS Data Model and Dictionary to reflect this withdrawal will be made in October 2009.

Under the terms and conditions of use of the Read Codes, users are advised to update regularly with latest versions. As there will be no further releases of the 4 Byte Read Codes, use after this date increases the risk that data will be compromised where concurrency of data is important.

If, following this notification, an issue is raised by a user stating total reliance upon 4 Byte Read Codes, then the issue will be assessed and suitable mitigation proposed and support offered – this may be that the user will need to upgrade to a supported terminology.

Timescales for Withdrawal / Change

	Health and Social Care Personnel	Organisation	IT Suppliers
Central Support Withdrawn	-	-	30 th September 2009
Withdrawn standard withdrawn from deployment	30 th September 2009		

Effects on Other Information Standards

There are no known associated data standards described in NHS Data Model and Dictionary which specify the use of 4 Byte Read Codes.

No planned standards are known to depend on the 4 Byte Read Codes.

There are a small number of operational standards such as Quality Outcomes Framework (QOF) for General Practice which are specified for the 4 Byte Read Codes, but these are also specified in Version 2, Clinical Terms Version 3 (Read Codes) and SNOMED CT. Users will need to submit returns based upon the code set used in their replacement system.

Sponsor Details

Paul Jones,
Chief Technical Officer
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2nd Floor,
Princes Exchange,
Princes Square,
Leeds LS1 4HY

Further Information and Support

Contact: datastandards@nhs.net

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Sponsor Details

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Further Information and Support

Contact: datastandards@nhs.net

Change Request

NHS Connecting for Health

NHS Data Model and Dictionary Service

Reference: Change Request 1016
Version No: 1.0
Subject: Withdrawal of 4Byte Version of the Read Codes
Effective Date: 1 October 2009
Reason for Change: Change to data standards
Publication Date: 8 January 2009

Background:

NHS Connecting for Health UK Terminology Centre's (UKTC) support for the maintenance of the 4Byte Version of the Read Codes is to be withdrawn. This effectively means that after the 1 April 2009 Release, there will be no new versions of the 4Byte Read Codes issued.

This Data Set Change Notice updates the NHS Data Model and Dictionary as follows:

- marks references to 4Byte Version as retired from 1 October 2009
- updates the references to the Read Code versions to match terminology guidance
- renames the Data Element "Procedure Coding (Diabetes Relevant Read)" to "Procedure Coding (Diabetes Relevant Read Codes)" to match "Diagnostic Coding (Diabetes Relevant Read Codes)"
- updates references for the "NHS Centre for Coding and Classification" to the UK Terminology Centre as this name is no longer current
- adds a new NHS Business Definition for the UK Terminology Centre
- adds a new NHS Business Definition for the International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation

Summary of changes:

Supporting Information

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH TERMINOLOGY STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION	New Supporting Information
ORGANISATIONS MENU	Changed Description
READ CODED CLINICAL TERMS	Changed Description
UK TERMINOLOGY CENTRE	New Supporting Information

Class Definitions

READ CLASSIFICATION	Changed Description
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Attribute Definitions

READ VERSION	Changed Description
READ VERSION RELEASE DATE	Changed Description

Data Elements

DIAGNOSIS SCHEME IN USE	Changed Description
DIAGNOSTIC CODING (DIABETES RELEVANT READ CODES)	Changed Description
PROCEDURE CODING (DIABETES RELEVANT READ CODES) renamed from PROCEDURE CODING (DIABETES RELEVANT READ)	Changed Aliases, Name, Description
PROCEDURE SCHEME IN USE	Changed Description

Date: 8 January 2009

Sponsor: Paul Jones, Ken Lunn, technology Office, NHS Connecting for 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.

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH TERMINOLOGY STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION

Change to Supporting Information: New Supporting Information

The [International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation](#) (IHTSDO) is an ORGANISATION.

The IHTSDO develops and promotes the use of SNOMED CT® (Systematised Nomenclature of Medicine Clinical Terms) to support safe and effective health information exchange.

For further information on the IHTSDO, see the [International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation website](#).

ORGANISATIONS MENU

Change to Supporting Information: Changed Description

- **Referenced Organisations:**

- [Department of Health](#)
- [Health and Social Care Information Centre](#)
- [Health Protection Agency](#)
- [Healthcare Commission](#)
- [International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation](#)
- [UK Terminology Centre](#)

READ CODED CLINICAL TERMS

Change to Supporting Information: Changed Description

- ~~1. The [Read Coded Clinical Terms](#) are a comprehensive computerised coded thesaurus for use by clinicians. They are available in three main formats, known as Version 3, Version 2 and the 4-Byte sets, and are designed for use in the electronic health care record. Version 3 of the Read Codes is a "Superset" of the earlier versions as it contains all codes and terms from Version 2 and the 4-Byte set.~~
- ~~2. [Read Coded Clinical Terms](#) may be used for coding within local systems but are not acceptable directly for coding [Hospital Episode Statistics](#) which are extracted from Admitted Patient Care Commissioning Data Set. Version 3 and Version 2 of the Read Codes both, however, contain mapping tables which can be used to generate ICD-10 and OPCS-4 codes.~~
- ~~3. For further information, see [Contact Details](#).~~
4. The [Read Coded Clinical Terms](#) are a comprehensive computerised coded thesaurus for use by clinicians. They are available in two main formats, known as Version 2 and Clinical Terms Version 3 (CTV3) (4Byte Version retired 1 October 2009). They are designed for use in the electronic health care record. Clinical Terms Version 3 (CTV3) of the Read Codes is a "Superset" of all the codes from the earlier versions.
5. [Read Coded Clinical Terms](#) may be used for coding within local systems but are not acceptable directly for coding [Hospital Episode Statistics](#) which are extracted from Admitted Patient Care Commissioning Data

Sets. Version 2 and Clinical Terms Version 3 (CTV3) of the Read Codes contain mapping tables which can be used to generate ICD-10 and OPCS-4 codes.

6. For further information, see [Contact Details](#).

UK TERMINOLOGY CENTRE

Change to Supporting Information: New Supporting Information

NHS Connecting for Health is the host of the [UK Terminology Centre](#) who are a member of the [International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation](#).

The core activities of the [UK Terminology Centre](#) are:

- Product Development
- Technical Infrastructure and
- Product Support

The [UK Terminology Centre's](#) responsibilities include:

- Being the primary point of liaison with the [International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation](#) (IHTSDO) with regard to all aspects of the management of the Terminology Products within the UK
- Establishing and maintaining processes for distributing and sub-licensing the Terminology Products within the UK
- Being the principal contact point within the UK for contact in relation to the Terminology Products, including sub-licensing, technical support; and obtaining updates and enhancements to the Terminology Products ensuring that any products and their releases that the Member deploys within its jurisdiction that are based on the IHTSDO's Terminology Products, are prepared, checked and managed in conformance with the IHTSDO's standards
- Maintaining a record of problems and other issues reported within the UK in connection with the Terminology Products
- Documenting, submitting and supporting requests (to the IHTSDO) for proposed updates and enhancements to the Terminology Products
- Monitoring the distribution and applications of the IHTSDO's Terminology Products, Trade Marks and other Intellectual Property within the UK and reporting to the IHTSDO
- Maintaining the UK National extension to SNOMED CT® (Systematised Nomenclature of Medicine Clinical Terms) and co-ordinate its release with the International Terminology Products. The combined International Release and local extension is known as the National Release
- Creation, maintenance, co-ordination and release of UK sub-sets (reference sets) and other UK derivative works
- Managing UK National release content requests
- Administration for the UK Health Terminology Governance Board (organise meetings; distribute papers; minutes, etc)

For further information on the [UK Terminology Centre](#), see the [UK Terminology website](#).

READ CLASSIFICATION

Change to Class: Changed Description

A subtype of [CLINICAL CLASSIFICATION](#).

~~A classification for [PATIENT DIAGNOSIS](#) and [CLINICAL INTERVENTION](#) using codes maintained by the NHS~~

~~Centre for Coding and Classification.~~ A classification for **PATIENT DIAGNOSIS** and **CLINICAL INTERVENTION** using codes maintained by the **UK Terminology Centre**.

READ VERSION

Change to Attribute: Changed Description

The code identifying the version of the **READ CLASSIFICATION** used.

Classification:

- ~~a. GP 4 byte~~
- ~~b. GP 5 byte~~
- ~~e. Version 3~~
- a. Read Code 4Byte Version (retired 1 October 2009)
- b. Read Code Version 2
- c. Read Code Clinical Terms Version 3 (CTV3)

~~References:~~

~~Version 1.0 Trial NHS Standard EDIFACT Messages for Pathology, Radiology and GP Hospital.~~

READ VERSION RELEASE DATE

Change to Attribute: Changed Description

~~The date on which an update to a version of the **READ CLASSIFICATION** was issued by the NHS Centre for Coding and Classification.~~ The date on which an update to a version of the **READ CLASSIFICATION** was issued by the **UK Terminology Centre**.

DIAGNOSIS SCHEME IN USE

Change to Data Element: Changed Description

Format/length:	an2
HES item:	
National Codes:	
Default Codes:	

Notes:

This is used in the Clinical Information Group of the Commissioning Data Set to denote the code scheme basis of the Diagnosis.

Permitted values are:

CODE	DESCRIPTION
01	Accident & Emergency Diagnosis
02	ICD-10
03	Read Version 1 (READ 4)
04	Read Version 2 (READ 5)
05	Read Version 3.0

CODE	DESCRIPTION
01	Accident & Emergency Diagnosis
02	ICD-10
03	Read Code 4Byte Version (retired 1 October 2009)
04	Read Code Version 2
05	Read Code Clinical Terms Version 3 (CTV3)

~~Read Version 3.1 is not supported in the Commissioning Data Set.~~ Read Code Clinical Terms Version 3 (CTV3) with qualifiers (previously known as 3.1) is not supported in the Commissioning Data Sets.

CDS-XML Message:

~~The codes specified above must be used in CDS-XML messages.~~ The codes specified above must be used in Commissioning Data Set - XML messages.

DIAGNOSTIC CODING (DIABETES RELEVANT READ CODES)

Change to Data Element: Changed Description

Format/length:	an7 for The Read Codes
HES item:	
National Codes:	
Default Codes:	

Notes:

Records the [DIAGNOSTIC CODING](#) identified in the following relevant conditions and complication associated with the diabetic condition:

Read Codes (diagnosis)

~~DKA (Hyperglycaemic emergencies)~~

~~4-byte~~

~~E2.. Diabetes mellitus
Ketoacidosis - diabetic (synonym)
E24.. Diabetes mellitus + ketoacidosis - no coma
E25.. Diabetes with coma~~

DKA (Hyperglycaemic emergencies)

4Byte Version (retired 1 October 2009)

C2.. Diabetes mellitus (retired 1 October 2009)
Ketoacidosis - diabetic (synonym) (retired 1 October 2009)
C24. Diabetes mellitus + ketoacidosis - no coma (retired 1 October 2009)
C25. Diabetes with coma (retired 1 October 2009)

Version 2

C101. Diabetes mellitus with ketoacidosis
C1010 Diabetes mellitus, juvenile type, with ketoacidosis
C1011 Diabetes mellitus, adult onset, with ketoacidosis
C101y Other specified diabetes mellitus with ketoacidosis
C101z Diabetes mellitus NOS with ketoacidosis

ANGINA

~~4-byte~~

~~E44. Angina pectoris
E440. Unstable angina
E444. Stable angina~~

ANGINA

4Byte Version (retired 1 October 2009)

G44. Angina pectoris (retired 1 October 2009)
G440 Unstable angina (retired 1 October 2009)
G444 Stable angina (retired 1 October 2009)

Version 2

G3111 Unstable angina
G33.. Angina pectoris
G33z. Angina pectoris NOS
G33z7 Stable angina

~~MI (Myocardial Infarction)~~

~~4-byte~~

~~G6A. Heart failure (preferred term),
Cardiac failure (synonym)
G6A1. Congestive cardiac failure~~

MI (Myocardial Infarction)

4Byte Version (retired 1 October 2009)

G6A. Heart failure (preferred term) (retired 1 October 2009)
Cardiac failure (synonym) (retired 1 October 2009)
G6A1 Congestive cardiac failure (retired 1 October 2009)

Version 2

G58.. Heart failure (preferred term)
Cardiac failure (synonym)
G580. Congestive cardiac failure

~~CVA (Stroke/Cerebro-Vascular Accident)~~

~~4-byte~~

~~G7.. Cerebrovascular disease
G712. Intracerebral haemorrhage
G73.. Cerebral arterial occlusion
G75.. Stroke/CVA undefined~~

CVA (Stroke/Cerebro-Vascular Accident)

4Byte Version (retired 1 October 2009)

G7.. Cerebrovascular disease (retired 1 October 2009)
G712 Intracerebral haemorrhage (retired 1 October 2009)
G73. Cerebral arterial occlusion (retired 1 October 2009)
G75. Stroke/CVA undefined (retired 1 October 2009)

Version 2

G6... Cerebrovascular disease
G61.. Intracerebral haemorrhage
G64.. Cerebral arterial occlusion
G66.. Stroke/CVA unspecified

~~RRT (End stage renal failure requiring renal replacement therapy)~~

~~4-byte~~

~~J16. Chronic renal failure (preferred term)
End stage renal failure (synonym)~~

RRT (End stage renal failure requiring renal replacement therapy)

4Byte Version (retired 1 October 2009)

J16. Chronic renal failure (preferred term) (retired 1 October 2009)
End stage renal failure (synonym) (retired 1 October 2009)

Version 2

K050. End stage renal failure

PROCEDURE CODING (DIABETES RELEVANT READ CODES)_ renamed from PROCEDURE CODING (DIABETES RELEVANT READ)

Change to Data Element: Changed Aliases, Name, Description

Format/length: an7 for the Read Codes
HES item:
National Codes:
Default Codes:

Notes:

Records the [PROCEDURE CODING](#) identified in the following relevant procedures associated with the diabetic condition.

Read Codes

~~**LASER (Ocular retinal photocoagulation)**~~

~~**4-byte**~~

~~8633 Retinal photocoag. therapy~~

LASER (Ocular retinal photocoagulation)

4Byte Version (retired 1 October 2009)

8633 Retinal photocoag. therapy (retired 1 October 2009)

Version 2

No equivalent term

~~**AMPUTATION**~~

~~**4-byte**~~

~~7EU.: Amputation - lower limb~~

~~7EU1.: Amputation of toes~~

~~7EU2.: Amputation foot: tarsal-metatar~~

~~7EU3.: Amputation foot: mid-tarsal~~

~~7EU5.: Supramalleolar ankle amptat.~~

~~7EU6.: Below knee amputation~~

~~7EU7.: Above knee amputation~~

AMPUTATION

4Byte Version (retired 1 October 2009)

7EU. Amputation - lower limb (retired 1 October 2009)

7EU1 Amputation of toes (retired 1 October 2009)

7EU2 Amputation foot: tarsal-metatar (retired 1 October 2009)

7EU3 Amputation foot: mid-tarsal (retired 1 October 2009)

7EU5 Supramalleolar ankle amptat (retired 1 October 2009)

7EU6 Below knee amputation (retired 1 October 2009)

7EU7 Above knee amputation (retired 1 October 2009)

Version 2

7L06. Amputation of leg

7L07. Amputation of foot

7L08. Amputation of toe

~~**RRT (End stage renal failure requiring renal replacement therapy)**~~

~~**4-byte**~~

~~8874 Haemodialysis (preferred term)~~

~~Dialysis - renal (synonym)~~

~~7A4 Kidney Transplant~~

RRT (End stage renal failure requiring renal replacement therapy)

4Byte Version (retired 1 October 2009 - CP1016)

8874 Haemodialysis (preferred term) (retired 1 October 2009)

Dialysis - renal (synonym) (retired 1 October 2009)

7A4 Kidney Transplant (retired 1 October 2009)

Version 2

7L1A. Compensation for renal failure

7B00. Kidney Transplant

PROCEDURE CODING (DIABETES RELEVANT READ CODES)_ renamed from **PROCEDURE CODING (DIABETES RELEVANT READ)**

Change to Data Element: Changed Aliases, Name, Description

- Alias Changes
 - Changed Name from Data_Dictionary.Data_Field_Notes.P.Pro.PROCEDURE_CODING_(DIABETES_RELEVANT_READ) to Data_Dictionary.Data_Field_Notes.P.Pro.PROCEDURE_CODING_(DIABETES_RELEVANT_READ_CODES)
 - Changed Description

Name	Old Value	New Value
plural	PROCEDURE CODINGS (DIABETES RELEVANT READ)	PROCEDURE CODINGS (DIABETES RELEVANT R CODES)

PROCEDURE SCHEME IN USE

Change to Data Element: Changed Description

Format/length:	an2
HES item:	
National Codes:	
Default Codes:	

Notes:

This is used in the Clinical Activity Group of the Commissioning Data Set to denote the scheme basis of an Intervention, Operation or A&E Treatment.

CODE	DESCRIPTION
01	Accident & Emergency Treatment
02	OPCS-4
03	Read Version 1 (READ 4)
04	Read Version 2 (READ 5)
05	Read Version 3.0
03	Read Code 4Byte Version (retired 1 October 2009)
04	Read Code Version 2
05	Read Code Clinical Terms Version 3 (CTV3)

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