

Sponsoring Organisation:		Implementation Date:	Immediate
<h1>Department of Health</h1>		Subject: Central Returns: Diagnostic Waiting Times and Activity Data Set	
DATA SET CHANGE NOTICE			
<p>This DSCN informs users of changes to the NHS Data Model and Dictionary that have been approved by the Information Standards Board for Health and Social Care on 26 May 2009.</p> <p>The burden of collection has been agreed by the Review of Central Returns Steering Committee (ROCR) - ROCR No: ROCR/OR/0168/FT6/003.</p>			
Summary:			
<p>As the waiting times for diagnostics have reduced, the need for reporting against the longer time bands has now ceased, meaning that the waiting times can be aggregated at 13+ weeks. This reduces redundant data in the Unify system and will make uploading a quicker process.</p> <p>In the data element Diagnostics Reporting Timeband, the monthly time bands are amended to:</p>			
	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+	13 weeks or more	
<p>This change has been implemented in Unify from April 2009. This change does not affect the submission cycle.</p>			
Related DSCNs:			
12/2005, 18/2005, 08/2006, 03/2007			
Impact of Change:			
Service:	Minor	System Suppliers:	None
<p>The Information Standards Board for Health and Social Care (ISB HaSC) is responsible for approving information standards.</p>			

Change Request

NHS Connecting for Health

NHS Data Model and Dictionary Service

Reference: Change Request 1073
Version No: 1.0
Subject: Diagnostics Waiting Times and Activity Data Set
Effective Date: 1 April 2009
Reason for Change: Change to data standards
Publication Date: 19 May 2009

Background:

The NHS Improvement Plan stated "By 2008, no one will have to wait longer than 18 weeks from GP referral to hospital treatment". It is therefore necessary for the Department of Health to measure diagnostic waits and activity to monitor continued achievement of this high profile target. Identifying long waits for diagnostics is a key step towards monitoring the referral to treatment pathway and driving down long waits for patients.

The Diagnostic Waiting Times and Activity Data Set standard provides definitions to support the national data collections on diagnostic tests. The Department of Health have introduced a change to the time bands for the monthly reporting of diagnostic waiting times and activity. From the 1st April 2009, the reporting of waiting times of 13 weeks or more will be aggregated.

This Data Set Change Notice updates the NHS Data Model and Dictionary to reflect the changes in the reporting of these time bands.

Summary of changes:

Supporting Information

[DIAGNOSTICS WAITING TIMES AND ACTIVITY DATA SET OVERVIEW](#) Changed Description

Data Elements

[DIAGNOSTICS REPORTING TIME BAND](#) Changed Description

Date: 19 May 2009

Sponsor: Paul Steele, Knowledge & Information, Department of Health

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

DIAGNOSTICS WAITING TIMES AND ACTIVITY DATA SET OVERVIEW

Change to Supporting Information: Changed Description

The [Diagnostics Waiting Times and Activity 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 reporting the [DIAGNOSTIC TEST](#) waiting times and the number of tests completed.~~ [ORGANISATIONS](#) responsible for the [DIAGNOSTIC TEST](#) activity report the [DIAGNOSTIC TEST](#) waiting times and the number of tests completed.

This data set is for the monthly return covering 15 key [DIAGNOSTIC TESTS](#) as below:

IMAGING

Magnetic Resonance Imaging
Computer Tomography
Non-obstetric ultrasound
Barium Enema
DEXA Scan (Dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry)

PHYSIOLOGICAL MEASUREMENT

Audiology - audiological assessments
Cardiology - echocardiography
Cardiology - electrophysiology
Neurophysiology - peripheral neurophysiology
Respiratory physiology - sleep studies
Urodynamics - pressures & flows

ENDOSCOPY

Colonoscopy
Flexible sigmoidoscopy
Cystoscopy
Gastroscopy

Patient level information

~~Information is to be submitted onto the Unify2 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. Aggregated numbers of 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 or a LOCATION TYPE such as a Health Centre). It is recognised that there will be some overlap between PATIENTS reported in this data set and PATIENTS reported in the inpatient and outpatient waiting times data sets. It is recognised that there will be some overlap between PATIENTS reported in this data set and PATIENTS reported in the other waiting times data sets.~~

How the data set is transmitted

~~Full guidance on Unify2 can be found at the following address: Information is to be submitted onto the Unify2 database that has been developed and maintained by the Department of Health. Full guidance on Unify2 can be found at the following address: Unify2 Forum~~

Further guidance

~~Guidance on extracting the data sets and patient pathways, including OPCS Classification of Interventions and Procedures, can be found at: Department of Health - Monthly and Biannual Diagnostics Statistics - Definitions and NHS 18 weeks - Guidance.~~

DIAGNOSTICS REPORTING TIME BAND

Change to Data Element: Changed Description

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

Default Codes:

Notes:

The time band for reporting on [Diagnostics Waiting Times and 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
13+	13 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

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