



Information Standards Board

DSC Notice: 16/2005
Date of Issue: September 2005

**NHS Information
Standards Board**

Subject:
**Data Standards:
Marital Status**

Implementation Date: **Immediate**

DATA SET CHANGE CONTROL PROCEDURE

This paper gives notification of changes to be included in the NHS Data Dictionary and the NHS CDS Manual as appropriate. These will be consolidated into the publications in due course.

Summary of Changes:

Change to the description of the NHS Data Dictionary data element for Marital Status, to clarify its use in the Mental Health Minimum Dataset.

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

Data Set Change Notices are located at: <http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/dscn>

The output for the DSCN is located at:
http://www.isb.nhs.uk/docs/cp690_maritalstatus_output.doc

NHS Data Model and Dictionary Service

Reference: Change Request 690
Version No: 1.4
Subject: Data Standards: Marital Status
Type of Change: Clarification of NHS Data Standards
Effective Date: 1 September 2005
Reason for Change: Clarification of the NHS Data Dictionary.

Background:

The NHS Data Dictionary definition of the data element Marital Status included the following:

"Following the recommendation of the Data Protection Registrar, Marital Status should not be recorded by providers in the CDS except in respect of the psychiatric specialties in the Admitted Patient Care CDS."

A query received by the Data Definition Query Service requested clarification of this definition, as to whether for the Mental Health Minimum Dataset, Marital Status is recorded for admitted patients only.

This definition has been changed to clarify the position for the Mental Health Minimum Dataset which requires that Marital Status **must be** recorded and kept up to date for all psychiatric patients.

Summary of changes:

Data Elements

[MARITAL STATUS](#) Change to Description

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Date: 1 September 2005
Sponsor: -

Note: Additions shown in highlighted with a blue background. Deletions are shown using strikethrough. Within the Diagrams deleted classes and relationships are shown as red in colour, blue is used for changed items and green is used for created items.

MARITAL STATUS

Change to Data Element: Change to Description

Format/length:	n1
HES item:	MARSTAT
National Codes:	
Default Codes:	8 - Not applicable, i.e. not a psychiatric episode 9 - Not known

Notes:

This is the same as PERSON MARITAL STATUS CODE.

The e-GIF standard PERSON MARITAL STATUS should be used for all new and developing systems and for XML messages. PERSON MARITAL STATUS CODE carries two sets of codes: one is for use in existing CDS EDIFACT messages and the other is the e-GIF codes for all new and developing systems and XML messages.

Commissioning Data Set messages

Following the recommendation of the Data Protection Registrar, Marital Status should not be recorded by providers in the CDS except in respect of the psychiatric specialties in the Admitted Patient Care CDS. The data item remains in the data standards since it will be needed by the provider.

Mental Health Minimum Dataset messages

For the Mental Health Minimum Dataset (MHMDS), MARITAL STATUS must be recorded and kept up to date for all psychiatric patients as specified in version 2.5.1 of the MHMDS Data Manual:

http://www.icservices.nhs.uk/mentalhealth/dataset/documents/MHMDS_Data_Manual.pdf.

This data element is also known by these names:

Context	Alias
plural	MARITAL STATUSES

For enquiries about this DSCN: -

Email: nhsdmds@cfh.nhs.uk

Website: Internet: <http://www.nhsia.nhs.uk/datastandards/pages/>

NHSnet: <http://nww.nhsia.nhs.uk/datastandards/pages/>