

**DSC Notice: 10/2003 (W)**  
**English DSCN Equivalent: 61/2002**  
Date of Issue: April 2003

<b>IRSS</b> <b>Information Requirements and</b> <b>Standards Sub Committee</b>	Subject:
	Data Standards: <b>NHS Numbers for Babies</b>
	Implementation date: 29 <sup>th</sup> October 2002

### **DATA SET CHANGE CONTROL PROCEDURE**

**This paper gives notification of changes to be included in Version 2.4 of the NHS Wales Data Dictionary.**

#### **Summary of change:**

Changes to the NHS Wales Data Dictionary Version 2.4 to reflect the allocation of NHS numbers to babies as soon as possible after birth.

<b><i>Change Proposal Reference No:</i></b> <b><i>IRSS/04/03/04</i></b>
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The Information Requirements and Standards Sub Committee (IRSS), is responsible for approving information standards.

*Please address enquiry's about this DSCN to Data Standards and Information Quality Team, HSW, Brunel House, 2 Fitzalan Road, Cardiff CF24 0HA Tel: 029 20503292 or E-mail [Datastandards@hsw.wales.nhs.uk](mailto:Datastandards@hsw.wales.nhs.uk)*

*Data Set Change Notices are available via the Intranet Service HOWIS <http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/> or by contacting the above address.*

**DSCN numbering format** = sequence number/year of issue, (W) for Welsh DSCN's.

## DATA SET CHANGE NOTICE 10/2003 (W)

**Reference:** IRSS 04/03/04

**Subject:** NHS Numbers for Babies

**Type of Change:** Change to data item note

**Effective Date:** 29<sup>th</sup> October 2002

**Reason for change:** To reflect the allocation of NHS numbers to babies as soon as possible after birth

### Background:

Babies used to have to wait until their civil registration, up to six weeks after birth, before they received an NHS number. From the 29<sup>th</sup> October 2002 every baby born in England and Wales should have received their unique NHS number as soon as possible after birth, as part of the Information Authority's NHS Numbers for Babies (NN4B) Programme: [www.nhsia.nhs.uk/nn4b](http://www.nhsia.nhs.uk/nn4b)

Midwives and maternity staff in England and Wales using an on-line computer link have been able to request and receive an NHS number for a baby as soon as it is born. Early issue of NHS numbers will give each baby a unique identifier making it easier to match test results, monitor quality of care, improve neonatal research and help provide clinicians with information needed to implement best practice. A newborn's personal and health details will therefore be consistent and accessible to ensure continuous quality healthcare.

In order to support this change it has been necessary to update the NHS Number guidance.

Note that babies' details will not be available on the NHS Strategic Tracing Service or on the NHS Administrative Register until after civil registration, so sites will not be able to verify the NHS Number until then.

**Effect on Data Dictionary:** Change will be included within the NHS Wales Data Dictionary Ver 2.4

### Summary of Changes:

#### Data Items

**NHS NUMBER**

Change Data Item note comment

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## CHANGES

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**Change type:** Change Data Item note comment

### NHS NUMBER

(General)

It is mandatory to record the NHS Number for each Patient. The only exception to this rule is A&E care. The NHS Number is allocated to an individual, to enable unique identification for NHS health care purposes.

~~The NHS number may not be available when MDS's are exchanged in respect of a baby, since six weeks grace is allowed for the parents to register birth details. It has therefore been agreed that provision of the NHS number details should be optional in MDS's for babies under six weeks old.~~

*The remaining comments are unchanged.*

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