

WELSH INFORMATION GOVERNANCE & STANDARDS BOARD

DSC Notice:	DSCN 2011/02
Date of Issue:	24 th March 2011

Ministerial / Official Letter:	Subject: The Office of Population Censuses and Surveys Classification of Interventions and Procedures (OPCS) version 4.6
Sponsor: Gordon McKenzie, Head of Information Services Division, Welsh Assembly Government	
Implementation Date: From 1 st April 2011	

DATA SET CHANGE NOTICE

A Data Set Change Notice (DSCN) is an information mandate for a new or revised information standard.

This DSCN was approved by the Welsh Information Governance and Standards Board (WIGSB) at its meeting on the 17th March 2011.

WIGSB Reference: IGRN 2011 / 002

Summary:

To introduce version 4.6 of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys Classification of Interventions and Procedures (OPCS) across NHS Wales.

Data sets / returns affected:

Admitted Patient Care Data Set (APC ds)
Outpatient Activity Data Set

Please address enquiries about this Data Set Change Notice to the Data Standards Team in NHS Wales Informatics Service E-mail: data.standards@wales.nhs.uk Tel: 02920502539/2540

The Welsh Information Governance and Standards Board is responsible for appraising information standards. Submission documents and WIGSB Outcomes relating to the approval of this standard can be found at: <http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/page.cfm?orgid=742&pid=24632>

DATA SET CHANGE NOTICE

Introduction

OPCS-4 is the Office of Population, Censuses and Surveys Classification of Surgical Operations and Procedures (4th revision). This statistical classification translates into code, operations and surgical procedures that can be carried out on a patient during an episode of health care.

OPCS-4 intervention codes are included in a number of national data sets.

OPCS 4.6 is the latest version of this intervention classification to be published by the NHS Classification Service of NHS Connecting for Health.

On 19th March 2009, the Welsh Information Governance and Standards Board for NHS Wales approved the implementation of OPCS 4.5. In doing so, it gave its approval for subsequent implementations of OPCS 4, dependant on ISB approval.

On 20th December 2010 the Information Standards Board published Information Standards Notice Amd 150/2010, which updated Information Standard ISB 0084 to mandate OPCS 4.6 from 1st April 2011 in NHS England. This implementation timescale is endorsed by the Welsh Information Governance and Standards Board for NHS Wales.

A submission to WIGSB to withdraw mandatory submission of HRG 3.5 codes in the APC data set was approved on 17th March 2011. Until advised otherwise, this field may be populated with an HRG 3.5 code or left blank. A Data Set Change Notice covering this withdrawal will be issued shortly.

Description of Change

The introduction of OPCS 4.6.

The following table summarises the number of changes from OPCS 4.6 by chapter.

Chapter	No. of New Codes	No. of Codes with Description Changes Only
A (Nervous System)	2	0
B (Endocrine System and Breast)	3	4
C (Eye)	5	0
D (Ear)	None	
E (Respiratory Tract)	5	0
F (Mouth)	2	1
G (Upper Digestive Tract)	4	0
H (Lower Digestive Tract)	2	0
J (Other Abdominal Organs)	2	0
K (Heart)	4	0
L (Arteries and Veins)	4	0
M (Urinary)	6	0
N (Male Genital Organs)	None	
P (Lower Female Genital Tract)	None	
Q (Upper Female genital Tract)	13	2

R (Female Genital Tract associated with pregnancy, Child Birth, and Puerperium)	None	
S (Skin)	2	0
T (Soft Tissue)	7	0
U (Diagnostic Imaging, Testing and Rehabilitation)	12	0
V (Bones and Joints of Skull and Spine)	5	0
W (Other Bones and Joints)	3	1
X (Miscellaneous Operations)	11	0
Y (Subsidiary Classification if Methods of Operation)	22	0
Z (Subsidiary Classification of Sites of Operation)	15	0
Total	129	8

A detailed breakdown of the changes is available at: -

http://www.isb.nhs.uk/documents/isb-0084/amd-150-2010/index_html

NHS Classification Service guidance on the OPCS 4.6 codes to use for High Cost Drugs and Chemotherapy Regimens can be found at:

<http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/page.cfm?orgid=329&pid=29030>

Different versions of OPCS 4 apply dependant on the episode end date (APC) or attendance date (outpatient activity) of the submitted record. The valid versions of OPCS 4 allowable are as follows: -

- Codes from the OPCS 4.2 are valid until 31st March 2006.
- Codes from the OPCS 4.3 are valid from 1st April 2006 until 30th September 2007.
- Codes from the OPCS 4.4 are valid from 1st October 2007 until 31st March 2009.
- Codes from the OPCS 4.5 are valid from 1st April 2009 until 31st March 2011.
- Codes from the OPCS 4.6 are valid from 1st April 2011.

Data Dictionary Version

This DSCN will be reflected in version 3.3 of the NHS Wales Data Dictionary.

Actions Required

Actions for the NHS Wales Informatics Service (NWIS): -

- Arrange the distribution of new OPCS Classification of Interventions and Procedures Version 4.6 (April 2011) Volume I - Tabular List and Volume II - Alphabetical Index to existing clinical coders.
- Ensure OPCS 4.6 training materials are adopted across Wales.
- Incorporate OPCS 4.6 changes into all affected national data processing tools, systems and reports such as Validation at Source Service, Reference Data tables, ePEDW and all clinical coding

reports *inter alia*. This includes ensuring the HRG4 grouping software used nationally to group clinically coded APC and outpatient activity are updated to reflect OPCS v4.6.

Actions for Local Health Boards / Trusts: -

- Ensure their patient administration systems, other affected IT systems and any associated encoding systems are upgraded to incorporate OPCS v4.6 as soon as possible after the 1st April 2011.
- Engage with clinical and other relevant staff to raise awareness of the updated classification in order to maximise the benefits from its introduction.
- Any LHBs / Trusts using the READ coding system are responsible for ensuring that the mapping to OPCS incorporates the OPCS v4.6 classification.