

WELSH INFORMATION STANDARDS BOARD

DSC Notice:	DSCN – 2012 / 03
Date of Issue:	11 th May 2012

Ministerial / Official Letter: n/a	Subject: Locality Networks & GP Practice Clusters
Sponsor: Lisa Dunsford Deputy Director – Primary Care Department for Health, Social Services & Children Welsh Government	
Implementation Date: 11 th May 2012	

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 Standards Board (WISB) at its meeting on the 19th April 2012

WISB Reference: ISRN 2011 / 011

Summary:

To introduce new definitions for Locality Network, GP Practice Cluster and GP Practice Cluster Code.

Data sets / returns affected:

None

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: 029 2050 2539/2540

The Welsh Information Standards Board is responsible for appraising information standards. Submission documents and WISB 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

In February 2010, the Welsh Government launched a new strategic delivery programme for primary care and community services. The strategy, known as 'Setting the Direction'¹ outlined a new approach to "locality working", requiring Local Health Boards (LHBs) to work collaboratively with other local support services across multiple sectors.

In response to the strategy, LHBs have been required to establish Locality Networks through which they are required to take forward the requirements set out in 'Setting the Direction'. There will be an ongoing requirement to collect and report data about both the care delivered by the GP practices associated with each Locality Network, care that is delivered to their patients by other healthcare providers and the health needs and care of patients in defined geographical areas. These collections are primarily designed to support peer review across Locality Networks and assist with the future planning of locality healthcare services.

In the summer of 2011, new indicators associated with the Quality & Outcome Framework (QOF) Quality & Productivity Indicators (QPI) relating to outpatient (OP) referrals and emergency admissions resulted in a series of reports being created to reflect secondary care activity for patients of Welsh GP Practices. In order to report this activity by the groups of GP Practices that are associated with each Locality Network, a central reference data file of those groupings was established. Each GP "cluster" was determined by individual LHBs (in conjunction with other appropriate local organisations) by grouping GP Practices (and therefore their registered populations) together.

By their nature, Locality Networks are going to be subject to change over time, such as the establishment of a new GP practice, changes to practice groupings and the addition of contributors from other sectors. Therefore, to ensure any future analyses of healthcare activity by GP Practice groupings would be undertaken correctly, it was recognised that a clear definition was required and an approved process should be established for the management of Locality Network GP Practice groupings on an ongoing basis.

The standard operating procedures outlining how changes to the GP Practice Cluster reference data are to be undertaken are published on the Health Reference Data website on HOWIS:

<http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/home.cfm?orgid=286>.

Description of Change

To formally introduce new data definitions for Locality Network, GP Practice Cluster and GP Practice Cluster Code.

¹ <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/documents/829/Setting%20the%20direction.pdf>

Data Dictionary Version

Where applicable, this DSCN reflects changes introduced by DSCN and/or DDCN since the release of version 4.0 of the NHS Wales Data Dictionary.

The changes introduced by such DSCNs will be published in version 4.1 of the NHS Wales Data Dictionary.

Actions Required

Actions for Local Health Boards / Trusts:

- Ensure the current version of nationally published reference data **only** is used when undertaking any analyses by GP Practice Cluster.
- Avoid the inappropriate use of GP Practice Clusters in any geographically based analysis of healthcare data.
- Ensure the national GP Practice Cluster reference data is kept updated through the adoption of the agreed standard operation procedures set out for their maintenance.
 - The standard operating procedures outlining how changes to the Locality Network reference data are to be undertaken are published on the Health Reference Data website on HOWIS:

<http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/page.cfm?orgid=286&pid=5325>.

Actions for the NHS Wales Informatics Service (NWIS):

- Ensure the GP Practice Cluster reference data are maintained and published on the Health of Wales Information Service (HOWIS) website in accordance with the agreed standard operation procedures set out for their maintenance.
 - The standard operating procedures outlining how changes to the GP Practice Cluster reference data are to be undertaken are published on the Health Reference Data website on HOWIS:

<http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/page.cfm?orgid=286&pid=5325>.

- Avoid the inappropriate use of GP Practice Clusters in any geographically based analysis of healthcare data.

Actions for Health Statistics & Analysis Unit, Welsh Government:

- Ensure the current version of nationally published reference data **only** is used when undertaking any analyses by GP Practice Cluster.
- Avoid the inappropriate use of GP Practice Clusters in any geographically based analysis of healthcare data.

Appendix A: Table reflecting areas that are impacted as a result of this DSCN

The following table shows all the data sets, data items, terms and other associated areas that are linked with the changes documented within this DSCN.

Each data definition type is listed in alphabetical order and is shown in the sequence in which it appears in this DSCN.

<u>Data Definition Type</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>New / Retired / Changed</u>	<u>Page</u>
Data Item	GP Practice Cluster Code	New	5
Term	GP Practice Cluster	New	6
Term	Locality Network	New	6

Appendix B: Highlighted changes to be made to the NHS Wales Data Dictionary

Changes to the NHS Wales Data Dictionary are detailed below, with new text being highlighted in **blue** and deletions are shown with a ~~strikethrough~~. The text shaded in **grey** shows existing text copied from the NHS Wales Data Dictionary.

Changes to Data Items

GP Practice Cluster Code

This is the code for a [GP Practice Cluster](#).

Format: 5-character alphanumeric

Value	Meaning	Valid From	Valid To
CCnnn	GP Practice Cluster Code (CC101 – CC999), allocated by the NHS Wales Informatics Service.	11 th May 2012	

Structure

- Each GP Practice Cluster Code begins with the letters 'CC'.
- The 3rd character provides a relationship to the parent [Local Health Board \(LHB\)](#)
 - All GP Practice Cluster Codes starting with CC1 will relate to Betsi Cadwaladr University LHB (7A1);
 - All GP Practice Cluster Codes starting with CC2 will relate to Hywel Dda LHB (7A2);
 - All GP Practice Cluster Codes starting with CC3 will relate to Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University LHB (7A3);
 - etc.
- The 4th and 5th characters are a sequential number identifying the individual [GP Practice Cluster](#).

GP Practice Cluster Codes can be viewed via the following link:

<http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/page.cfm?orgid=286&pid=5325>

GP Practice Cluster

A GP Practice Cluster is a grouping of GPs and Practices locally determined by an individual NHS Wales [Local Health Board](#) (LHB).

GPs in the Clusters play a key role in supporting the ongoing work of a [Locality Network](#).

The grouping of [GP Practices](#) into GP Practice Clusters aims to support peer review across the practices associated with each [Locality Network](#).

[GPs in these practices will](#) assist with the future planning of locality healthcare services.

In population terms, the grouping of [GP Practices](#) into a GP Practice Cluster relates only to the combined registered practice populations of those practices. The registered practice populations of a GP Practice Cluster **will not** directly map to the geographic areas for which Locality Networks are defined as having responsibility. However, for some aspects of [Locality Network](#) functioning, services provided by those GP practices will be relevant.

A GP Practice Cluster does not have a physical boundary and should not be compared with or aggregated up to other geographically based boundaries used for the analysis of healthcare data, such as Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs), Middle Super Output Area (MSOAs), Unitary Authorities (UA) and electoral wards. Therefore, GP Practice Cluster populations should never be used in any geographically-based analysis of healthcare data.

See [GP Practice Cluster Code](#)

Locality Network

Initially established under 'Setting the Direction', locality networking is intended to be a platform for local service planning and delivery through the formation of partnerships between [Local Health Boards](#) (LHBs), [GPs / Practices](#) and, in the future, other health and social care agencies, such as Public Health teams, Social Services and other Local Authority departments. These partnerships are required to plan and deliver out-of-hospital services across smaller communities.

Locality Network is the term used to describe this collaborative approach.

Each [Local Health Board](#) may have a number of Locality Networks.

Each [Local Health Board](#) may have a number of [GP Practice Clusters](#).

The nature of Locality Networks and their relationship to [GP Practice Clusters](#) may vary across [Local Health Boards](#).

See [GP Practice Cluster](#)
