

WELSH INFORMATION STANDARDS BOARD

DSC Notice:	DSCN 2012 / 06
Date of Issue:	23 rd July 2012

Ministerial / Official Letter: n/a	Subject: Outpatient Referrals
Sponsor: Director of Performance and Operations, Welsh Government.	
Implementation Date: August 2012 Data Submitted September 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 July 2012

WISB Reference: IGRN 2011/001

Summary:

To change to the submission timescales for the reporting of the Outpatient Referrals (OPR) Data Set in order to satisfy national reporting requirements.

Data sets / returns affected:

Outpatient Referrals Data Set

Please address enquiries about this Data Set Change Notice to the Data Standards Team in NHS Wales Informatics Service

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The Welsh Information Standards Board is responsible for appraising information standards. Submission documents and WISB Outcomes can be found at:

<http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/page.cfm?orgid=742&pid=24632>

DATA SET CHANGE NOTICE

Introduction

The Outpatient Referrals Data Set (OPR DS) was introduced in 2008 via DSCN (2008) 05 (W)¹ and EH/ML/010/08². Its introduction was designed *"to enhance the information base for referrals into secondary care"*. This data set includes all new clinical referrals received into a Local Health Board (LHB) / Trust for a new outpatient appointment from General Practitioners, General Dental Practitioners, Community Dental Services, A&E Departments, self referrals, walk-ins or emergency patients accompanied by a GP letter and Consultant to Consultant Referrals.

LHBs / Trusts have been required to submit monthly the OPR DS via the NHS Wales Data Switching Service (NWDSS) on the 27th day of each month.

In order for the OPR DS to be used for national reporting, such as the publication of official statistics by the Health Statistics & Analysis Unit, Welsh Government, there is a requirement to change the submission date for the data set.

Description of Change

To change the submission date from the 27th to the 14th calendar day of each month

Data Dictionary Version

It is noted that the operational processes by which the OPR DS, and other national patient-level data sets, are submitted to NWIS are not fully described in the NHS Wales Data Dictionary. A further Data Dictionary Change Notice (DDCN) will be issued to add the reporting details to the NHS Wales Data Dictionary for all patient-level data sets.

Actions Required

Action for Local Health Boards / Trusts:

- Ensure OPR DS is submitted by the 14th calendar day of each month, effective from September 2012 onwards – i.e.
 - The first submission of OPR DS is required by Friday 14th September 2012, for data relating to 1st August 2012 to 31st August. .

Action for the NHS Wales Informatics Service:

- Ensure that a monthly extract of OPR data is provided to the Health Statistics & Analysis Unit, Welsh Government, using the OPR DS as the source, effective from September 2012 onwards.

¹ <http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/299/opendoc/144482>

² http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/doclib/EH_ML_010_08.pdf