

WELSH INFORMATION STANDARDS BOARD

DSC Notice:	DSCN 2012 / 10
Date of Issue:	13 th November 2012

Ministerial / Official Letter: n/a	Subject: Outpatient Referrals Aggregate Return
Sponsor: Kevin Flynn Director of Delivery & Deputy Chief Executive of NHS Wales Welsh Government	
Implementation Date: Immediate	

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 18th October 2012

WISB Reference: IGRN 2011 / 001

Summary:

To retire the monthly Outpatient Referrals Aggregate Return (OPR AgR).

Data sets / returns affected:

Outpatient Referrals Aggregate Return (OPR AgR)

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 Monthly Aggregate Return (OPR AgR) was introduced in 2002 via WHC(2002)72¹, mandating NHS Local Health Boards (LHBs) / Trusts to submit monthly aggregate counts of GP referral requests by specialty for first outpatient appointments to the Welsh Government. This data has historically been required in order for WG to assess trends at LHB / Trust and specialty level, of GP referrals to first out-patient appointments.

WHC(2002)72 recognised that the collection of aggregated 'count' OPR data was:

"... pragmatic and the strategic direction will be towards the submission of OPS [outpatient activity and referral] minimum data sets"

The monthly publication of the number of GP referrals from the OPR AgR by the Health Statistics & Analysis Unit (HSA), Welsh Government commenced in June 2006, as set out in WHC(2006)035².

The Outpatient Referrals Minimum Data Set (OPR MDS) was introduced in 2008 via DSCN (2008) 05 (W)³ and EH/ML/010/08⁴. This data set includes all new clinical referrals received into a LHB / Trust 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 are currently required to submit monthly the OPR MDS via the NHS Wales Data Switching Service (NWDSS) on the 14th calendar day of each month.

In October 2012, HSA moved to reporting official statistics for outpatient referrals using the OPR MDS as the source rather than the OPR AgR. As a result, there is no longer a national requirement for the reporting of the monthly OPR AgR. HSA will continue to publish data on outpatient referrals; the source for April 2012 data onwards is the OPR MDS.

Description of Change

To retire the OPR AgR with immediate effect.

Data Dictionary Version

The OPR AgR is not described in the NHS Wales Data Dictionary in any way. Therefore, this change does not require any amendments to be made to the dictionary.

Where applicable, this DSCN reflects changes introduced by DSCN and/or DDCN since the release of version 4.1 of the NHS Wales Data Dictionary.

The changes introduced by such DSCNs will be published in version 4.2 of the NHS Wales Data Dictionary.

¹ <http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/doclib/whc2002-72-e.pdf>

² http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/doclib/WHC_2006_035.pdf

³ <http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/299/opensdoc/144482>

⁴ http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/doclib/EH_ML_010_08.pdf

Actions Required

Action for Local Health Boards / Trusts:

- Cease the reporting of monthly OPR AgR data to HSA with immediate effect.