

WELSH INFORMATION STANDARDS BOARD

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| DSC Notice: | DSCN 2015 / 01 |
| Date of Issue: | 9 th January 2015 |

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| Ministerial / Official Letter: AC/AS/14/080/A9552379 | Subject: Diagnostic and Therapy Services Waiting Times Return |
| Sponsor: Delivery and Performance Division Department of Health and Social Services Welsh Government | |
| Implementation Date: PILOT: 1 st February 2015 (data submitted in March 2015) to 31 st July 2015. | |

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 18th December 2014

WISB Reference: ISRN 2014 / 025

Summary:

To increase the scope of the existing Diagnostic and Therapy Services Waiting Times Return to include additional diagnostic tests related to cardiology services for a time limited pilot period.

Data sets / returns affected:

Diagnostic and Therapy Services Waiting Times Return

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

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

The Diagnostic and Therapy Services Waiting Times Return was first introduced in May 2003. The purpose of the return is to capture waiting times for specified diagnostic and therapy services for the NHS in Wales.

As part of a Welsh Government programme of work to review Cardiac Referral to Treatment Times, the scope of the Diagnostic and Therapy return is being extended for a time limited period to include additional diagnostic tests for Cardiology. The results of the pilot will inform which diagnostic tests should be subject to performance targets to support reduction in the overall referral to treatment waiting times for Cardiology. The additional tests will be included as sub-headings against the service 'Cardiology'.

The specified services currently within scope of the return can be accessed here:
<http://nww.datadictionary.wales.nhs.uk/WordDocuments/serviceheading.htm>

The sub-divisions of the services which include specific diagnostic tests can be accessed here:
<http://nww.datadictionary.wales.nhs.uk/WordDocuments/servicesubheading.htm>

The reporting of separate waits for the additional diagnostic tests is intended to provide an insight into delays for specific tests which have an impact on Cardiac Referral to Treatment Times.

Description of Change

To increase the scope of the Diagnostic and Therapy Services Waiting Time Return to include additional diagnostic tests related to Cardiology services for a 6 month pilot period.

Data Dictionary Version

Where applicable, this DSCN reflects changes introduced by DSCN and/or DDCN since the release of version 4.6 of the NHS Wales Data Dictionary.

The changes introduced by such DSCNs will be published in version 4.7 of the NHS Wales Data Dictionary.

Actions Required

Local Health Boards / Trusts:

- Health Boards are required to report waits against the additional diagnostic tests from 1st February 2015, this relates to February activity submitted in March.

NHS Wales Informatics Service:

- Update national data processing and validation services (e.g. NHS Wales Data Switching Service and Validation and Source Services) to allow for the reporting of waits for the additional service sub-headings within the Diagnostic & Therapy Services Waiting Times Return for a 6 month period with effect from March 2015.
- Provide the waiting times data for the additional sub-headings to the Delivery and Performance Division, Welsh Government on a monthly basis.

- Ensure that the data relating to the additional sub-headings for the purposes of the pilot is excluded from the extract provided to Knowledge and Analytical Services for the official statistical release.

Welsh Government Knowledge & Analytical Services

- There are no actions for the Welsh Government Knowledge and Analytical Services Department.

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

The following table shows all applicable 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.

| Data Definition Type | Name | New/Retired/Changed | Page Number |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Live Data Sets and Aggregate Data Collections / Aggregate Proformas | Diagnostic and Therapy Services Waiting Times | 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.

a) Changes to DT Monthly Data Collection – Details of Return

Services

There are 13 services for which data is to be submitted. Within Radiology, GP referrals are submitted separately from consultant referrals. The table below provides a complete list of services and sub headings for which data should be submitted.

| Service | Service Sub Heading | Additional Information |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Arts Therapies | Learning Disabilities | Waiting time from waiting list date until the census date. |
| | Mental Health | Patients are removed from the waiting list on the Date of Commencement of Episode Care (Diagnostic and Therapy Services.) |
| Audiology (Adult Hearing Aids) | Consultant | A hearing aid is described as an externally worn electrical listening device. |
| | GP | Waiting times from waiting list date until the census date. Patients are removed from the waiting list on the date their hearing aid is fitted. |
| Cardiology | Stress Test / Exercise Tolerance Test | A stress test is a non-invasive procedure to record the heart's electrical activity during exercise. |
| | Echo Cardiogram | An echo cardiogram is a non-invasive ultrasound procedure used to diagnose cardiovascular disease. |
| | 24 Hour Blood Pressure Monitoring | A non-invasive method of obtaining blood pressure readings over a 24 hour period. |
| | 24 Hour Tape / Holter | A 24 hour tape or holter continuously records the hearts rhythms over a 24 hour period. |
| | Cardiac Computed Tomography (Cardiac CT) | Cardiac computed tomography is a non-invasive test that uses an x-ray machine to take clear, detailed pictures of the heart. |
| | Cardiac Magnetic Resonance | Heart magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is an imaging method that uses powerful magnets and radio waves to |

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| | Imaging (Cardiac MRI) | create pictures of the heart. It does not use radiation (x-rays). |
| | Doppler Stress Echocardiogram (DSE) | A stress echo test uses ultrasound technology to assess the flow of blood through vessels in the heart. |
| | Myocardial Perfusion Scanning | A myocardial perfusion scan uses a small amount of a radioactive chemical to see how well blood flows to the muscles of the heart (the myocardium) |
| | Diagnostic Angiography | Angiography is a medical imaging technique used to visualize the inside, or lumen, of blood vessels and organs of the body, with particular interest in the arteries, veins, and the heart chambers. |
| | Diagnostic Electrophysiology (EP Study) | An electrophysiology study is a minimally invasive procedure that tests the electrical conduction system of the heart to assess the electrical activity and conduction pathways of the heart. |
| | Trans Oesophageal Echocardiogram (TOE) | A <i>trans oesophageal</i> test is a type of echocardiogram test in which the ultrasound transducer, positioned on an endoscope, is guided down the patient's throat into the oesophagus. |
| Diagnostic Endoscopy | Gastroscopy | Endoscopy is the direct visual examination of any part of the interior of the body by means of an optical viewing instrument. Waiting time from waiting list date until census date. |
| | Flexible Sigmoidoscopy | |
| | Colonoscopy | |
| | Cystoscopy | |
| | Bronchoscopy | |
| Dietetics | Adults | Waiting time from waiting list date until the census date. Patients are removed from the waiting list on the Date of Commencement of Episode Care (Diagnostic and Therapy Services.) |
| | Paediatrics | |
| Imaging | Fluoroscopy | Waiting time from waiting list date until census date. Fluoroscopy is an imaging technique commonly used by physicians to obtain real-time images of the internal structures of a patient through the use of a fluoroscope. |
| Neurophysiology | Electromyography | Electromyography (EMG) is a diagnostic procedure that measures the electrical activity of the muscle to gather information about the muscular system. |
| | Nerve Conduction Studies | Nerve Conduction Studies (NCS) measure the function of the peripheral nervous system, i.e. nerves and muscles. |
| Occupational | Adults | Waiting time from waiting list date until the census date. |

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| Therapy | Paediatrics | Patients are removed from the waiting list on the Date of Commencement of Episode Care (Diagnostic and Therapy Services.) |
| | Learning Disabilities | |
| | Mental Health | |
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| Physiological Measurement | Urodynamic Tests | Urodynamics is an umbrella term describing physiological measurements of the bladder and urethra's ability to fulfil these functions, including pressures & flows. |
| | Vascular Technology | Used to detect abnormalities within the vascular system, assisting a physician's diagnosis and decisions to treat surgically or otherwise. |
| Physiotherapy | Adults | Waiting time from waiting list date until the census date. |
| | Paediatrics | Patients are removed from the waiting list on the Date of Commencement of Episode Care (Diagnostic and Therapy Services.) |
| Podiatry | Urgent | Waiting time from waiting list date until the census date. |
| | Routine | Patients are removed from the waiting list on the Date of Commencement of Episode Care (Diagnostic and Therapy Services.) |
| Radiology – GP Referral | Barium Enema | Waiting time from waiting list date until census date. Patients are removed from the waiting list on the date the diagnostic test for which they are waiting is carried out |
| | Computed Tomography | |
| | Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) | |
| | Non –Obstetric Ultrasound | |
| | Nuclear Medicine | |
| Radiology – Consultant Referral | Barium Enema | Waiting time from waiting list date until census date. Patients are removed from the waiting list on the date the diagnostic test for which they are waiting is carried out |
| | Computed Tomography | |
| | Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) | |
| | Non –Obstetric Ultrasound | |
| | Nuclear Medicine | |

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| Speech & Language | Adults | Waiting time from waiting list date until the census date. |
| | Paediatrics | Patients are removed from the waiting list on the Date of Commencement of Episode Care (Diagnostic and Therapy Services.) |
| | Learning Disabilities | |
| | Mental Health | |

b) Changes to Existing Data Items

Service Sub Heading

This data item is / was included in the following data sets / collections between the dates shown:

| Data Set / Collection | Valid From | Valid To |
|-----------------------|------------|----------|
| DT Waiting Times | | |

Sub divisions of the specified services used for the Monthly Collection of Waiting Times of Diagnostic and Therapy Services.

See [Service Heading](#)

| Service | Service Sub Heading | Additional Information | Valid From | Valid To |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| Arts Therapies | Learning Disabilities | Waiting time from waiting list date until the census date. | 1 st April 2004 | |
| | Mental Health | Patients are removed from the waiting list on the Date of Commencement of Episode Care (Diagnostic and Therapy Services.) | 1 st April 2004 | |
| Audiology (Adult Hearing Aids) | Consultant | A hearing aid is described as an externally worn electrical listening device. | 1 st April 2004 | |
| | GP | Waiting times from waiting list date until the census date. Patients are removed from the waiting list on the date their hearing aid is fitted. | 1 st April 2004 | |
| Cardiology | Stress Test / Exercise Tolerance Test | A stress test is a non-invasive procedure to record the heart's electrical activity during exercise. Waiting times from waiting | 1 st April 2004 | |

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| | | <p>list date until the census date.</p> <p>Patients are removed from the waiting list on the date the diagnostic test for which they have been referred is carried out.</p> | | |
| | Echo Cardiogram | <p>An echo cardiogram is a non-invasive ultrasound procedure used to diagnose cardiovascular disease.</p> <p>Waiting times from waiting list date until the census date.</p> <p>Patients are removed from the waiting list on the date the diagnostic test for which they have been referred is carried out.</p> | 1 st April 2004 | |
| | 24 Hour Blood Pressure Monitoring | <p>A non-invasive method of obtaining blood pressure readings over a 24 hour period.</p> <p>Waiting times from waiting list date until the census date.</p> <p>Patients are removed from the waiting list on the date the diagnostic test for which they have been referred is carried out.</p> | 1 st February 2015 | 31 st July 2015 |
| | 24 Hour Tape / Holter | <p>A 24 hour tape or holter continuously records the hearts rhythms over a 24 hour period.</p> <p>Waiting times from waiting list date until the census date.</p> <p>Patients are removed from the waiting list on the date the diagnostic test for which</p> | 1 st February 2015 | 31 st July 2015 |

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| | | they have been referred is carried out. | | |
| | Cardiac Computed Tomography (Cardiac CT) | <p>Cardiac computed tomography is a non-invasive test that uses an x-ray machine to take clear, detailed pictures of the heart.</p> <p>Waiting times from waiting list date until the census date.</p> <p>Patients are removed from the waiting list on the date the diagnostic test for which they have been referred is carried out.</p> | 1 st February 2015 | 31 st July 2015 |
| | Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Imaging (Cardiac MRI) | <p>Heart magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is an imaging method that uses powerful magnets and radio waves to create pictures of the heart. It does not use radiation (x-rays).</p> <p>Waiting times from waiting list date until the census date.</p> <p>Patients are removed from the waiting list on the date the diagnostic test for which they have been referred is carried out.</p> | 1 st February 2015 | 31 st July 2015 |
| | Doppler Stress Echocardiogram (DSE) | <p>A stress echo test uses ultrasound technology to assess the flow of blood through vessels in the heart.</p> <p>Waiting times from waiting list date until the census date.</p> <p>Patients are removed from the waiting list on the date the diagnostic test for which they have been referred is carried out.</p> | 1 st February 2015 | 31 st July 2015 |

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| | Myocardial Perfusion Scanning | <p>A myocardial perfusion scan uses a small amount of a radioactive chemical to see how well blood flows to the muscles of the heart (the myocardium)</p> <p>Waiting times from waiting list date until the census date.</p> <p>Patients are removed from the waiting list on the date the diagnostic test for which they have been referred is carried out.</p> | 1 st February 2015 | 31 st July 2015 |
| | Diagnostic Angiography | <p>Angiography is a medical imaging technique used to visualize the inside, or lumen, of blood vessels and organs of the body, with particular interest in the arteries, veins, and the heart chambers.</p> <p>Waiting times from waiting list date until the census date.</p> <p>Patients are removed from the waiting list on the date the diagnostic test for which they have been referred is carried out.</p> | 1 st February 2015 | 31 st July 2015 |
| | Diagnostic Electrophysiology (EP Study) | <p>An electrophysiology study is a minimally invasive procedure that tests the electrical conduction system of the heart to assess the electrical activity and conduction pathways of the heart.</p> <p>Waiting times from waiting list date until the census date.</p> <p>Patients are removed from the waiting list on the date the diagnostic test for which they have been referred is carried out.</p> | 1 st February 2015 | 31 st July 2015 |

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| | Trans Oesophageal Echocardiogram (TOE) | <p>A <i>trans oesophageal</i> test is a type of echocardiogram test in which the ultrasound transducer, positioned on an endoscope, is guided down the patient's throat into the oesophagus.</p> <p>Waiting times from waiting list date until the census date.</p> <p>Patients are removed from the waiting list on the date the diagnostic test for which they have been referred is carried out.</p> | 1 st February 2015 | 31 st July 2015 |
| Diagnostic Endoscopy | Gastroscopy | Endoscopy is the direct visual examination of any part of the interior of the body by means of an optical viewing instrument. | 1 st September 2007 | |
| | Flexible Sigmoidoscopy | | 1 st September 2007 | |
| | Colonoscopy | Waiting time from waiting list date until census date. | 1 st September 2007 | |
| | Cystoscopy | | 1 st September 2007 | |
| | Bronchoscopy | | 1 st September 2007 | |
| Dietetics | Adults | Waiting time from waiting list date until the census date. | 1 st April 2004 | |
| | Paediatrics | Patients are removed from the waiting list on the Date of Commencement of Episode Care (Diagnostic and Therapy Services.) | 1 st April 2004 | |
| Imaging | Fluoroscopy | <p>Waiting time from waiting list date until census date.</p> <p>Fluoroscopy is an imaging technique commonly used by physicians to obtain real-time images of the internal structures of a patient through the use of a fluoroscope.</p> | 1 st April 2007 | |
| Neurophysiology | Electromyography | Electromyography (EMG) is a diagnostic procedure that | 1 st April 2007 | |

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| | | measures the electrical activity of the muscle to gather information about the muscular system. Waiting time from waiting list date until census date. | | |
| | Nerve Conduction Studies | Nerve Conduction Studies (NCS) measure the function of the peripheral nervous system, i.e. nerves and muscles. Waiting time from waiting list date until census date. | 1 st April 2007 | |
| Occupational Therapy | Adults | Waiting time from waiting list date until the census date. | 1 st April 2004 | |
| | Paediatrics | Patients are removed from the waiting list on the Date of Commencement of Episode Care (Diagnostic and Therapy Services.) | 1 st April 2004 | |
| | Learning Disabilities | | 1 st April 2004 | |
| | Mental Health | | 1 st April 2004 | |
| Physiological Measurement | Urodynamic Tests | Urodynamics is an umbrella term describing physiological measurements of the bladder and urethra's ability to fulfil these functions, including pressures & flows. Waiting time from waiting list date until census date. | 1 st April 2007 | |
| | Vascular Technology | Used to detect abnormalities within the vascular system, assisting a physician's diagnosis and decisions to treat surgically or otherwise. Waiting time from waiting list date until census date. | 1 st April 2007 | |
| Physiotherapy | Adults | Waiting time from waiting list date until the census date. | 1 st April 2004 | |
| | Paediatrics | Patients are removed from the waiting list on the Date of Commencement of Episode Care (Diagnostic and Therapy Services.) | 1 st April 2004 | |

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| Podiatry | Urgent | Waiting time from waiting list date until the census date. | 1 st April 2004 | |
| | Routine | Patients are removed from the waiting list on the Date of Commencement of Episode Care (Diagnostic and Therapy Services.) | 1 st April 2004 | |
| Radiology – GP Referral | Barium Enema | Waiting time from waiting list date until census date. | 1 st April 2004 | |
| | Computed Tomography | Patients are removed from the waiting list on the date the diagnostic test for which they are waiting is carried out | 1 st April 2004 | |
| | Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) | | 1 st April 2004 | |
| | Non –Obstetric Ultrasound | | 1 st April 2004 | |
| | Nuclear Medicine | | 1 st April 2004 | |
| Radiology – Consultant Referral | Barium Enema | Waiting time from waiting list date until census date. | 1 st April 2004 | |
| | Computed Tomography | Patients are removed from the waiting list on the date the diagnostic test for which they are waiting is carried out | 1 st April 2004 | |
| | Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) | | 1 st April 2004 | |
| | Non –Obstetric Ultrasound | | 1 st April 2004 | |
| | Nuclear Medicine | | 1 st April 2004 | |
| Speech & Language | Adults | Waiting time from waiting list date until the census date. | 1 st September 2004 | |
| | Paediatrics | Patients are removed from the waiting list on the Date of Commencement of Episode Care (Diagnostic and Therapy Services.) | 1 st September 2004 | |
| | Learning Disabilities | | 1 st September 2004 | |
| | Mental Health | | 1 st September 2004 | |