

WELSH INFORMATION STANDARDS BOARD

DSC Notice:	DSCN 2019 / 06
Date of Issue:	9 th May 2019

Ministerial / Official Letter:	Subject: Diagnostic & Therapy Services and Referral to Treatment Waiting Times Returns – Sleep Disordered Breathing
Sponsor: The Respiratory Health Implementation Group (RHIG)	
Implementation Date: 1 st June 2019	

DATA STANDARDS CHANGE NOTICE

A Data Standards 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 April 2019

WISB Reference: ISRN 2018 / 014

Summary:

To introduce a pilot to collect data relating to test and treatment waiting times for patients referred to sleep disordered breathing services for a time limited period.

Data sets / returns affected:

Diagnostic and Therapy Services Waiting Times and Referral to Treatment Times (Combined) returns

Please address enquiries about this Data Standards 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 STANDARDS CHANGE NOTICE

Introduction

The Diagnostic and Therapy Services Waiting Times and Referral to Treatment Times (Combined) were introduced in 2003 and 2011 respectively. These returns support Welsh Government programmes dealing with patient waiting times; consequently, there is a need to revisit the list of tests and treatments in order to address any additional areas of concern regarding patient waits.

At present, sleep related disorders are not listed in the Diagnostic and Therapy Services Waiting Times return and are not isolated in the Referral to Treatment Times (Combined) return.

Whilst this proposal relates solely to sleep disordered breathing, it is recognised that there remains a requirement to undertake further work to enable reporting of additional respiratory tests for non-sleep related respiratory problems. This will be addressed in a subsequent phase.

Description of Change

To increase the scope of the Diagnostic and Therapy Services Waiting Time and Referral to Treatment Times (Combined) returns to include additional diagnostic tests and treatments for sleep disordered breathing services for a 12 month pilot period as defined in the Information Specification below.

Data Dictionary Version

Where applicable, this DSCN reflects changes introduced by DSCN and/or DDCN since the release of version 4.9 of the NHS Wales Data Dictionary.

The changes introduced by such DSCNs will be published in version 4.10 of the NHS Wales Data Dictionary.

Actions Required

Local Health Boards / Trusts:

- Ensure that local processes and system updates are in place to meet the reporting requirements as described in this DSCN
- Report waits against the additional diagnostic tests and treatments from 1st June 2019 (first return July 2019)

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:
 - o Service Sub Headings in the Diagnostic and Therapy Services Waiting Times return
 - o Local Sub Specialty in the Referral to Treatment Times (Combined) return.
- Provide the pilot waiting times data for the additional Service Sub Headings and Local Sub Specialty Codes to the Delivery and Performance Division, Welsh Government on a monthly basis.
- Exclude the pilot data from the extracts provided to Knowledge and Analytical Services for the official statistical release.

Welsh Government:

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

Information Specification

Diagnostics and treatments within sleep disordered breathing clinics/services as follows:

Diagnostics:

- Overnight Pulse Oximetry
- Limited Channel Cardio-respiratory Sleep Study (Polygraphy)

Treatments:

- APAP, CPAP, NIV, Mandibular advancement device

The following disorders are within the scope of this Standard:

- Obstructive Sleep Apnoea
- Obstructive Sleep Apnoea Hypopnoea Syndrome
- Upper Airway Resistance Syndrome
- Obesity Hypoventilation Syndrome
- Other Sleep Disordered Breathing Disorders

Only outpatients are within scope. Inpatients and patients referred to Tertiary Sleep Services are excluded from scope. Typically these relate to Level 4 and some Level 3 patients (see [Supporting Definitions](#)).

Clock Start and Stop points are as existing RTT rules (see <http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/407/page/71317>), considering the following for additional clarity:

- The clock will start on the date that the sleep disordered breathing clinic/service receives the referral.
- Referrers must use the most efficient and patient-centred approach to referral that reduces the steps needed to reach treatment. LHBs must ensure that patients are seen by the most appropriate individual once the referral has been received.
- RTT ends either with setup on any of the treatments listed above or discharge

With regards to residence, accountability for recording and reporting will be as outlined in existing RTT rules.

Given concerns as to the ability to capture the necessary information for patients who are already on the waiting list, the proposal will be restricted to new referrals only, acknowledging that this would mean a complete picture of waits might not be available for several months.

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 Aggregate Data Collections	Diagnostic and Therapy Services Waiting Times	Changed	6
Live Aggregate Data Collections	Referral to Treatment Times (Combined)	Changed	18

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.

Service Heading

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

Data Set / Collection	Valid From	Valid To
APC ds99	1 st April 1999	
DT Waiting Times		

Name of specified diagnostic and therapy services included in the monthly collection of Waiting Times data.

Specified services and therapies are: -

Arts Therapies

Audiology

Cardiology

Diagnostic Endoscopy

Dietetics

Imaging

Neurophysiology

Occupational Therapy

Physiological measurement

Physiotherapy

Podiatry

Radiology – GP Referral

Radiology – Consultant Referral

Speech & Language

These are sub-divided into [Service Sub Headings](#)

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 list date until the census date. Patients are removed from the waiting list on the date the diagnostic test for which they have been referred is carried out.	1 st April 2004	
	Echo Cardiogram	An echo cardiogram is a non-invasive ultrasound procedure used to diagnose cardiovascular disease. Waiting times from waiting list date until the census date. Patients are removed from the waiting list on the date the diagnostic test for which they have been referred is carried out.	1 st April 2004	
		A non-invasive method of obtaining blood pressure	1 st February 2015*	31 st July 2015*

<p>24 Hour Blood Pressure Monitoring</p>	<p>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>	<p>1st April 2017**</p>	<p>31st March 2018**</p>
<p>Blood Pressure Monitoring</p>	<p>A recording over 24 hours or more of patient's blood pressure readings by the fitting of a monitor.</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>	<p>1st April 2018</p>	
<p>24 Hour Tape / Holter</p>	<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 they have been referred is carried out.</p>	<p>1st February 2015*</p>	<p>31st July 2015*</p>
		<p>1st April 2017**</p>	<p>31st March 2018**</p>
<p>Heart Rhythm Recording</p>	<p>Any recording of heart rhythm made over a period of 24 hours or more requiring a patient to be fitted or implanted with a recorder and a period of analysis and reporting to be undertaken.</p>	<p>1st April 2018</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>		
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*	
		1 st April 2017**	31 st March 2018**	
	<p>Cardiac computed tomography is an investigation undertaken using a high resolution fast acquisition ECG gated CT scanner to image the heart especially the coronary arteries</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 2018		
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>	1 st February 2015*	31 st July 2015*	
		1 st April 2017**	31 st March 2018**	
		1 st April 2018		

		<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>		
	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>	<p>1st February 2015*</p> <p>1st April 2017**</p>	<p>31st July 2015*</p> <p>31st March 2018**</p>
	Dobutamine Stress Echocardiogram (DSE)	<p>A dobutamine stress echo is an ultrasound imaging technique used to assess the heart when myocardial oxygen demand is increased using either physical or pharmacological stress.</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>	<p>1st April 2018</p>	
	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>1st February 2015*</p> <p>1st April 2017**</p>	<p>31st July 2015*</p> <p>31st March 2018**</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>		
		<p>A myocardial perfusion scan uses a gamma camera to image the heart using a small amount of radioactive isotope to assess how well blood flows to the muscle of the heart (the <i>myocardium</i>)</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 2018	
	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*
1 st April 2017**			31 st March 2018**	
		<p>Angiography is an x-ray guided medical imaging technique used to visualize the inside, or lumen, of blood vessels and organs</p>	1 st April 2018	

	<p>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>		
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*
		1 st April 2017**	31 st March 2018**
	<p>An electrophysiology study is an x-ray guided procedure that investigates the electrical conduction system of the heart to assess the electrical activity and conduction pathways.</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 2018	
	<p>A <i>trans oesophageal</i> test is a type of echocardiogram</p>	1 st February 2015*	31 st July 2015*

	Trans Oesophageal Echocardiogram (TOE)	<p>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 April 2017**	31 st March 2018**
		<p>A trans oesophageal echocardiogram is a type of echocardiogram in which the ultrasound transducer, is guided down the patient's throat into the oesophagus and stomach to allow for clearer imaging of certain cardiac and surrounding structures.</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 2018	
Diagnostic Endoscopy	Gastroscopy	<p>Endoscopy is the direct visual examination of any part of the interior of the body by means of an optical viewing instrument.</p> <p>Waiting time from waiting list date until census date.</p>	1 st September 2007	
	Flexible Sigmoidoscopy		1 st September 2007	
	Colonoscopy		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	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.	1 st April 2007	
Neurophysiology	Electromyography	Electromyography (EMG) is a diagnostic procedure that measures the electrical activity of the muscle to gather information about the muscular system. Waiting time from waiting list date until census date.	1 st April 2007	
	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		1 st April 2004	
	Learning Disabilities	Patients are removed from the waiting list on the Date of Commencement of Episode Care (Diagnostic and Therapy Services.)	1 st April 2004	
	Mental Health		1 st April 2004	
Physiological Measurement	Limited Channel Cardio-respiratory Sleep Study (Polygraphy)		1 st June 2019	31 st May 2020

	Overnight Pulse Oximetry		1 st June 2019	31 st May 2020
	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. Patients are removed from the waiting list on the Date of Commencement of Episode Care (Diagnostic and Therapy Services.)	1 st April 2004	
	Paediatrics		1 st April 2004	
Podiatry	Urgent	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.)	1 st April 2004	
	Routine		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	31 st March 2018
	Non Cardiac Computed Tomography		1 st April 2018	
	Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)		1 st April 2004	31 st March 2018

	Non Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)		1 st April 2018	
	Non -Obstetric Ultrasound		1 st April 2004	
	Nuclear Medicine		1 st April 2004	31 st March 2018
	Non Cardiac Nuclear Medicine		1 st April 2018	
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	31 st March 2018
	Non Cardiac Computed Tomography		1 st April 2018	
	Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)		1 st April 2004	31 st March 2018
	Non Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)		1 st April 2018	
	Non -Obstetric Ultrasound		1 st April 2004	
	Nuclear Medicine		1 st April 2004	31 st March 2018
	Non Cardiac Nuclear Medicine		1 st April 2018	
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	
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* Pilot period for additional cardiology diagnostic tests.

** Further pilot for additional cardiology diagnostic tests.

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	1st April 2004	

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

See [Service Heading](#)

Local Sub Specialty

Change History	
DSCN 2012 / 11	Elective Admission List Data Set (EAL Ds)
DSCN 2011/07	The introduction of the 'Referral to Treatment Times (Combined)' return
DSCN 2010 / 06	Outpatient Activity Minimum Data Set (OP MDS) Data Validity Standards
DSCN (2009) 05 (W)	Reporting Assessment Unit Activity in the Admitted Patient Care (APC) Data Set
DSCN (2008) 07 (W)	The Introduction of Valid Period Date Ranges for Data Items within the APC Data Set
DSCN (2007) 13 (W)	To remove waits for certain diagnostic endoscopies from the waiting times data collection for inpatient and day case admissions and first outpatient appointments (PP01W).
DSCN (2006) 05 (W)	Rename Data Item 'Consultant Specialty Function Code' and 'Specialty Function Code'

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

Data Set / Collection	Valid From	Valid To
APC ds99	1 st April 1999	
EAL ds	1 st April 1999	21 st November 2012
OP ds	1 st April 1999	
PP01W		
RTT (Combined)	1 st September 2011	

This is a locally or nationally defined division of clinical work which may cross specialty boundaries.

Format: 3 character alpha-numeric

Treatment Function Code	Local Sub Specialty Code	Valid From	Valid To
NNN Any	000 No appropriate sub-specialty	1 st May 1998	
	666 Assessment Unit	1 st April 2009	
160 Plastic Surgery	100 Plastic Surgery (non burns)	1 st May 1998	
	166 Plastic Surgery (non burns) ASSESSMENT	1 st April 2009	
	200 Burns Surgery	1 st May 1998	
	266 Burns Surgery ASSESSMENT	1 st April 2009	

170 Cardiothoracic Surgery	100 Cardiac Surgery	1 st May 1998	
	166 Cardiac Surgery ASSESSMENT	1 st April 2009	
	200 Thoracic Surgery	1 st May 1998	
	266 Thoracic Surgery ASSESSMENT	1 st April 2009	
	300 Paediatric Cardiac Surgery	1 st May 1998	
	366 Paediatric Cardiac Surgery ASSESSMENT	1 st April 2009	
320 Cardiology	100 Paediatric Cardiology	1 st May 1998	
	166 Paediatric Cardiology ASSESSMENT	1 st April 2009	
341 Respiratory Physiology	100 Sleep Disordered Breathing ¹	1 st June 2019	31 st May 2020
400 Neurology	100 Spinal Injuries	1 st May 1998	
	166 Spinal Injuries ASSESSMENT	1 st April 2009	
	900 Other Neurology	1 st May 1998	
	966 Other Neurology ASSESSMENT	1 st April 2009	

1 Specifically defined as APAP, CPAP, NIV or Mandibular advancement devices in the treatment of Obstructive Sleep Apnoea, Obstructive Sleep Apnoea Hypopnoea Syndrome, Upper Airway Resistance Syndrome, Obesity Hypoventilation Syndrome or Other Sleep Disordered Breathing Disorders. For additional guidance on scope, see the Information Specification within this DSCN.

This local sub specialty code is a separate field, rather than an extension.

For Referral to Treatment Times (Combined):-

- Local Sub Specialty must always be submitted, noting that '000' means no appropriate Local Sub Specialty;
- Codes for "Assessment" activity (i.e. 666, 166, 266, 366, and 966) are not permissible in the RTT (Combined) return.