

Data Provision Notice

Quarterly Monitoring of Cancelled Operations

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Contents

Background	3
Purpose of the collection.....	3
Benefits of the collection.....	3
Legal basis for collection, analysis, publication and dissemination	4
Persons consulted	4
Scope of the collection	4
Form of the collection	5
Manner of the collection	5
Period of the collection	5
Burden of the collection	5

Background

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 (the Act) gives the Health and Social Care Information Centre, now known as [NHS Digital](#) and hereafter referred to by this name, statutory powers, under section 259(1)(a), to require data from health or social care bodies, or organisations that provide health or adult social care in England, where it has been Directed to establish an information system by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care or NHS England.

The data, as specified by NHS Digital in this published Data Provision Notice, is required to support a direction from the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to NHS Digital. Therefore, organisations that are in scope of the notice are legally required, under section 259(5) of the Act, to provide the data in the form and manner specified below.

The data was previously collected into Unify 2 under a commencement order but is now being collected under a Secretary of State for Health and Social Care direction for NHS Digital to migrate and continue to collect the data.

Purpose of the collection

The purpose of this data collection is:

- To monitor the number of last minute cancellations of elective operations for non-clinical reasons.
- To assess providers against the cancelled operations standard (when a patient's operation is cancelled by the hospital at the last minute for non-clinical reasons, the hospital will have to offer another binding date within a maximum of the next 28 days or fund the patient's treatment at the time and hospital of the patient's choice).

These statistics are used to provide information to the public and other stakeholders, to highlight where cancelled operations are an issue, and how this has changed over time.

They enable commissioners and NHS England to monitor performance against the standard.

Benefits of the collection

The organisations responding to the collection agree with sentiments above and consider that a benefit will be the ability to “clearly report on progress against plan” and “to request data analysis from NHS England to measure performance against peers which will “in turn inform actions to benefit patients”.

By monitoring of the development of local support and services, they will be able to identify “where there are gaps in local support and services [and] ensure that robust community provision is developed”.

Legal basis for the collection, analysis, publication and dissemination

NHS Digital has been directed by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care under section 254 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012; to establish and operate a system for the migration and continued operation for the collection and analysis of the information specified for this service. A copy of the Direction is published here:

<https://digital.nhs.uk/about-nhs-digital/corporate-information-and-documents/directions-and-data-provision-notices/secretary-of-state-directions/the-migration-and-continued-operation-of-the-unify2-collections-through-the-strategic-data-collections-service-direction-2017>

This information is required by NHS Digital under section 259(1)(a) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

In line with section 259(5) of the Act, all organisations in scope, in England, must comply with the requirement and provide information to NHS Digital in the form, manner and period specified in this Data Provision Notice.

This Notice is issued in accordance with the procedure published as part of NHS Digital duty under section 259(8).

Persons consulted

Following receipt of a direction to establish and operate a system for the migration and continued operation to collect Quarterly Monitoring of Cancelled Operations, NHS Digital has, as required under section 258 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, consulted with the following persons:

- NHS England - the organisation that issued the original direction (under the commencement order).
- Department of Health and Social Care – the organisation from which the current Direction was issued to NHS Digital.
- Data providers - consulted regarding the use of the Strategic Data Collections Service (SDCS) platform.

NHS England has also consulted with providers regarding changes to the Unify platform as part of ongoing work with NHS Digital.

Scope of the collection

Under section 259(1)(a) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, this Notice is served in accordance with the procedure published as part of the NHS Digital duty under section 259(8) on the following persons:

- NHS Providers (and Private providers who provide NHS services) of inpatient operations.

Under section 259(5) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 the organisation types specified in the above Scope must comply with the Form, Manner and Period requirements below:

Form of the collection

Providers are required to complete two sections:

- 1) The number of operating theatres (total and day surgery only)
- 2) The number of last minute cancellations and number of breaches of the standard.

Manner of the collection

This data is collected via the NHS Digital web-based system, Strategic Data Collections Service (SDCS), instead of Unify 2.

The pro forma template should be completed by the submitting organisation and uploaded to NHS Digital via the SDCS online data collection platform.

Further information is available here: <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/data-collections-and-data-sets/data-collections/strategic-data-collection-service-sdcs>

Period of the collection

This is a quarterly ongoing collection.

Timeframes are as follows:

- provider deadline on the 18th working day after the quarter end
- data is published on the second Thursday of the month after submission.

For example, for data relating to Q3 (Oct - Dec) 2017-18, the schedule is provider deadline, 25 January 2018 with data published, 8 February 2019

Burden of the collection

Steps taken by NHS Digital to minimise the burden of collection

In seeking to minimise the burden it imposes on others, in line with sections 253 (2a) and 265(3) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, NHS Digital has an assessment process to validate and challenge the level of burden incurred through introducing new information standards, collections and extractions.

This assurance is carried out by the Data Standards and Assurance Service (DSAS) which assures burden assessment evidence provided as part of the overarching Data Alliance Partnership Board (DAPB) process. The DAPB, acting under authority of the Secretary of State, oversees the assurance and approval of information standards, data collections and data extractions for the health and social care system in England.

The assessments are ongoing for all former Unify2 collections that are moving onto the SDCS platform and will be published in the next version of this data provision notice.

For further information

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