

# Adult Social Care Record Minimum Operational Data Standard

High Level  
Implementation  
Guidance



# Data Alliance Partnership Board

The Data Alliance Partnership Board (DAPB), which holds delegated authority from the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, has approved a new information standard for publication under [section 250 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012](#).

Assurance that this information standard meets the requirements of the Act and is appropriate for the use specified in the specification document has been provided by the Data Standards Assurance Service (DSAS) and endorsed by the Data Alliance Partnership Sub Board (DAPSB) and Adult Social Care Data Outcomes Board.

This information standard comprises the following documents:

- Implementation Guidance (this document)
- Requirements Specification

An Information Standards Notice DAPB4102 has been issued as a notification of use and implementation timescales. Please read this alongside the documents for the standard.

The controlled copies of these documents can be found on the [NHS England website](#). Any copies held outside of that area, in whatever format (e.g. paper, email attachment), are considered to have passed out of control and should be checked for currency and validity.

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## Document management

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### Reviewers

This document must be reviewed by the following people:

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## Glossary of Terms

Term / Abbreviation	What it stands for
Adult Social Care Conceptual Data Model	The adult social care conceptual data model developed for the Adult Social Care Record Minimum Operational Data Standard.
Adult Social Care Data Catalogue ( <i>also called Data Catalogue</i> )	A searchable and browsable digital repository and registry of metadata in which definitions of database objects and assets such as standards, terminology and definitions, base tables, views, synonyms, value ranges, indexes, users, and user groups are stored.
API	Application Programming Interface.
ASC	Adult Social Care.
Assured Solution Suppliers	Adult Social Care Record system suppliers that have been approved by the NHSE DSC Assured Supplier Programme.
Adult Social Care Data Catalogue ( <i>also called Data Catalogue</i> )	A searchable and browsable digital repository and registry of metadata in which definitions of database objects and assets such as standards, terminology and definitions, base tables, views, synonyms, value ranges, indexes, users, and user groups are stored.
CQC	Care Quality Commission.
DAPB	Data Assurance Partnership Board.
DICOM	Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine is a technical standard for the digital storage and transmission of medical images and related information.
DiSC	The NHSE Digitising Social Care transformation programme, also referred to as 'Digital Social Care' or 'DSC.'
DiSC Knowledge Base	The online information website for the Digitising Social Care programme and Information Standard resources.
DSCR	Digital Social Care Record.
FHIR	Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources.
HL7	Health Level Seven – an international, not-for-profit, standards developing organisation with a mission of empowering global health interoperability.

<b>Term / Abbreviation</b>	<b>What it stands for</b>
ISO	International Standards Organisation - an international standard development organization composed of representatives from the national standards organisations of member countries.
LGA	Local Government Association.
NHSE	NHS England – the Sponsor of the Adult Social Care Record Minimum Operational Data Standard.
NHS Data Model and Dictionary	The NHS Data Model and Dictionary provides a reference point for approved Information Standards Notices. The data assets and resources contained in the NHS Data Model and Dictionary are included in the DSC Catalogue.
NHSE DiSC	NHS England Digitising Social Care Programme.
MODS	Minimum Operational Data Standard (for Digital Social Care Records).
Providers	CQC registered Adult Social Care organisations and services.
PRSB	Professional Records Standards Body.
RFC 2119	‘RFC 2119’ is a standardised way to signify the requirements in a specification. ‘RFC’ stands for ‘Request For Comments’ and denotes standards published by the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF).
SNOMED-CT	Systemized Nomenclature of Medicine – Clinical Terminology.

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## 1. Purpose

The purpose of this document, together with the associated Requirements Specification and supporting online resources, is to support Adult Social Care service providers and their system suppliers to implement DAPB4102 Adult Social Care Record Minimum Operational Data Standard.

This Information Standard does not involve a data collection or extraction and does not involve any publication of data. It is a data specification to enable standardisation of Adult Social Care Records.

## 2. Scope

The DSCR Minimum Operational Data Standard applies to all CQC registered Adult Social Care providers in England and to the suppliers of their respective Digital Social Care Record systems. Under separate arrangements overseen by NHS England, implementation of this Standard is a contractual requirement for all NHSE Digital Social Care Record Assured Solution Suppliers.

## 3. Implementation Checklist

The following steps help organisations understand and approach the implementation process by enabling them to engage with the right people within their own organisation and with key external stakeholders, including their Digital Social Record IT system suppliers. Links to the relevant documentation and online resources are provided in Section 4.2 and Appendix 1 of this document.

Compliance with information standards will normally be included in contracts between Providers and their system suppliers. NHS England DSCR Assured Solution Suppliers are required to be fully compliant with this Information Standard by August 2025.

### **Step 1: Read the Information Standards Notice (ISN)**

This is the official notification of the information standard, published by the Data Alliance Partnership Board (DAPB). It provides an outline of the approved standard and timeframe for compliance.

### **Step 2: Read Adult Social Care Minimum Operational Data Standard Information Standard documents**

Documents: High Level Implementation Guidance (this document) and the Requirements Specification.

### **Step 3: Familiarise yourself with the DiSC Knowledge Base implementation resources and the Adult Social Care Data Catalogue.**

Links to these websites are provided in [Section 4.2](#) and [Appendix A](#) of this document.

### **Step 4: Review your existing contracts with system suppliers to confirm their responsibilities and obligations to comply with DAPB Information Standards specifications and implementation requirements.**

A list of NHSE DSCR Assured Solution Suppliers is available from the Digital Social Care website. A link to the website is provided in [Section 4.2](#) and [Appendix A](#) of this document and is also available on the [DiSC Knowledge Base](#) web page.

## **4. Supporting information**

### **4.1 Approach to developing this Information Standard**

The Adult Social Care Record Minimum Operational Data Standard will underpin the standardisation of Digital Social Care Records in England and will support a range of system-wide national and local digital and integration development programmes. A key design principle of the specification is to ensure that Social Care Records can support interoperability for integrated health and adult social care records and for data sharing across health and adult social care systems.

The development of the Data Dictionary for this Information Standard has utilised existing information standards, including data terms and their definitions, that are applicable to Adult Social Care provision, including national Social Care Data Information Standards assured by the DAPB, PRSB Standards, SNOMED CT, NHS Number, LGA Inform, NHS Data Model and Dictionary and UK FHIR.

The Data Dictionary is structured according to a data model for Adult Social Care Records that is based on the International Standard EN ISO 13940:2016 and Consys:2019. The data model is designed to align with ISO13606 to support integration and interoperability with health records.

### **4.2 Supporting documents and resources**

[Supporting documents for DAPB4102](#) include:

- DAPB4102 Adult Social Care Record Minimum Operational Data Standard Information Standards Notice (ISN)
- DAPB4102 Adult Social Care Record Minimum Operational Data Standard Requirements Specification

- DAPB4102 Adult Social Care Record Minimum Operational Data Standard – High Level Implementation Guidance (this document)
- DAPB4102 Adult Social Care Record Minimum Operational Data Standard – Online implementation guidance resources which include the ASC Data Model and Use Cases, which are hosted on the [DiSC Knowledge Base](#) web pages.
- [Social Care Data Catalogue](#) – Online data catalogue that includes all ASC Information Standards published by the DAPB.

### 4.3 Standards utilised / referenced in this Standard

Data elements and assets used in the Social Care Record MODS have been drawn from the following Information Standards and Products.

#### Record Standards

- [Core Information Standard v2.0](#)
- [About Me v1.2](#)
- [Personalised Care and Support Plan v2.0](#)
- [Social Prescribing v1.0](#)
- [Urgent Transfer From Care Home To Hospital v1.3](#)

#### Information Standards: National and International Standards Products and Services

- [NHS England Terminology Server – Syndication API in place](#)
- [NHS Data Model and Dictionary - – Syndication API in place](#)
- [NHS Social Care Data Dictionary](#)
- [NHS Number](#)
- [Health and Social Care Organisation Reference Data](#)
- [LGA Inform](#)
- [Treatment Function and Main Specialty Standard](#)
- [Unique Property Reference Number](#)
- [SNOMED CT – UK Edition](#)
- [HL7 FHIR UK Core](#)
- [ISO 13606 - Electronic Health Record](#)
- [openEHR](#)
- [EN ISO 13940:2016 - A system of concepts for the continuity of care](#)

- [ISO 3166 Country Codes](#)
- [ISO 639-1 Language Codes](#)
- [DICOM](#)

## 5. Implementation Guidance

This section provides guidance that Adult Social Care providers and their suppliers of IT systems (Digital Social Care Records) can use to implement the requirements of DAPB4102 Adult Social Care Record Minimum Operational Data Standard.

### 5.1 Adult Social Care Record Data Model

The Data Dictionary and implementation guidance are organised into categories according to the Adult Social Care Conceptual Data Model as follows:

#### **Care actor**

The 'Subject of Care' is the person receiving health and care services is the principle 'Care actor' represented in the model for Adult Social Care records. As well as the 'Subject of Care', all important actors involved in care provision are represented in the model and include organisations, teams and individuals participating in health and social care.

#### **Assessment**

The process of evaluating a person's needs, wishes, strengths and preferences, as well as identifying any relevant risks associated with them.

#### **Care Plan**

A written plan is produced after a person has had an assessment of their needs, setting out what their care and support needs are, how they will be met (including what the person or anyone who cares for them will do) and what services will be provided.

#### **Instruction, activity and action**

Information about how care should be provided, including a set of planned / scheduled activities, as well as a record of the actions that have been completed and the outcomes of those actions.

#### **Observation**

A record of something a care actor has seen, heard, or noticed in reference to the health or social wellbeing of a person. These can include objective and subjective observations and can be recorded by healthcare professionals and/or other care actors.

#### **Administrative Information**

Information recorded when a person interacts with health and social care services and concerning the management of a persons' care and those responsible for caring for them.

## Consent and legal information

Legal information and record of consent for the person being cared for (Subject of Care).

## Audit and provenance

Information about the provenance of all information recorded and any changes to an information record for audit purposes.

Detailed definitions and descriptions of the data model and its component sections can be accessed via the [DiSC Knowledge Base](#) web page.

## 5.2 Use Cases

During the development stages, stakeholders from across the social care sector were engaged and were involved in identifying the key actors (personas) and representative operational scenarios that demonstrate the purpose, scope, benefits and value of implementing this Information Standard. A range of these use cases have been published on the [DiSC Knowledge Base](#) website with the aim to provide operational context and guidance to support implementation of this Information Standard. Each use case aims to illustrate the context of the data model and of the data items that are recorded in a social care setting. Each data item is linked to corresponding information in the Social Care Data Catalogue.

**Use case 1:** Consistency of care to an individual when a temporary worker needs to step in.

**Use case 2:** Communicating an individual's care needs between local authority and care provider at the point of commissioning.

**Use case 3:** Consistency of care and recording across a multi-disciplinary team.

**Use case 4:** Providing consistent support in hospital and at home for an individual with an existing care plan.

**Use case 5:** Implementing a new social care system.

**Use case 6:** Care provider moving to a digital system.

**Use case 7:** Sharing elements of care planning information across many systems – components or "building blocks" of care plan.

**Use case 8:** DHSC receiving information from local authorities and care providers.

**Personas:** The key actors that are involved and impacted by the implementation of this Information Standard.

**Additional use cases:** A number of additional use cases were identified and assessed during the development process for this Information Standard.

## 5.3 Conformance

Compliance with the DAPB4102 Adult Social Care Record Minimum Operational Data Standard by all CQC registered adult social care Assured DSCR providers is required by August 2025.

The implementation requirements of individual data items within the Data Dictionary are structured according to [RFC 2119](#) designation within the Implementation guidelines and instructions tables as follows:

- All **MUST** requirements shall be met.
- All **SHOULD** requirements must be met or there must be a credible, legitimate reason documented for why they have not been.
- **MAY** requirements are optional.

Evidence that all CQC ASC Providers are compliant with this Standard will be managed and monitored by NHS England through a range of Digitising Social Care Programme initiatives and driven locally through measures such as those implemented through Integrated Care Boards.

## 6. Helpdesk

A dedicated helpdesk is available to support NHS DSCR Assured Solution Suppliers: [DiSC Service Desk - Jira Service Management \(atlassian.net\)](#). All other queries should be directed to the DSCR road map team - [england.dscroadmap@nhs.uk](mailto:england.dscroadmap@nhs.uk)

## Appendix A: Useful web links

1	DiSC Knowledge Base	<a href="https://digitalsocialcare.refined.site/space/DHSC1/2053996766/Adult+Social+Care+Record+(MODS)">https://digitalsocialcare.refined.site/space/DHSC1/2053996766/Adult+Social+Care+Record+(MODS)</a>
2	Social Care Data Catalogue	<a href="https://data.digitalsocialcare.co.uk/browser/dataset?id=86081&amp;origin=0&amp;dataclass=139711">https://data.digitalsocialcare.co.uk/browser/dataset?id=86081&amp;origin=0&amp;dataclass=139711</a>
3	Core Information Standard v2.0	<a href="https://data.standards.nhs.uk/published-standards/core-information-standard">https://data.standards.nhs.uk/published-standards/core-information-standard</a>
4	About Me v1.2	<a href="https://data.standards.nhs.uk/published-standards/about-me">https://data.standards.nhs.uk/published-standards/about-me</a>
5	Personalised Care and Support Plan v2.0	<a href="https://data.standards.nhs.uk/published-standards/personalised-care-and-support-plan">https://data.standards.nhs.uk/published-standards/personalised-care-and-support-plan</a>
6	Social Prescribing v1.0	<a href="https://data.standards.nhs.uk/published-standards/social-prescribing-information-standard">https://data.standards.nhs.uk/published-standards/social-prescribing-information-standard</a>
7	Urgent Transfer From Care Home To Hospital v1.3	<a href="https://data.standards.nhs.uk/published-standards/urgent-transfer-from-care-home-to-hospital">https://data.standards.nhs.uk/published-standards/urgent-transfer-from-care-home-to-hospital</a>
8	NHS England Terminology Server – Syndication API in place	<a href="https://digital.nhs.uk/services/terminology-server">https://digital.nhs.uk/services/terminology-server</a>
9	NHS Data Model and Dictionary - – Syndication API in place	<a href="https://www.datadictionary.nhs.uk">https://www.datadictionary.nhs.uk</a>
10	NHS Social Care Data Dictionary	<a href="https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/data-collections-and-data-sets/data-collections/social-care-collection-materials-2022#asc-data-dictionary">https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/data-collections-and-data-sets/data-collections/social-care-collection-materials-2022#asc-data-dictionary</a>
11	NHS Number	<a href="https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/information-standards/information-standards-and-data-collections-including-extractions/publications-and-notifications/standards-and-collections/isb-0149-nhs-number">https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/information-standards/information-standards-and-data-collections-including-extractions/publications-and-notifications/standards-and-collections/isb-0149-nhs-number</a>
12	Health and Social Care Organisation Reference Data	<a href="https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/information-standards/information-standards-and-data-collections-including-extractions/publications-and-notifications/standards-and-collections/dapb0090-health-and-social-care-organisation-reference-data">https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/information-standards/information-standards-and-data-collections-including-extractions/publications-and-notifications/standards-and-collections/dapb0090-health-and-social-care-organisation-reference-data</a>

13	LGA Inform	<a href="https://home.esd.org.uk/opendata">https://home.esd.org.uk/opendata</a>
14	Treatment Function and Main Specialty Standard	<a href="https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/information-standards/information-standards-and-data-collections-including-extractions/publications-and-notifications/standards-and-collections/dcb0028-treatment-function-and-main-specialty-standard">https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/information-standards/information-standards-and-data-collections-including-extractions/publications-and-notifications/standards-and-collections/dcb0028-treatment-function-and-main-specialty-standard</a>
15	Unique Property Reference Number	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/open-standards-for-government/identifying-property-and-street-information">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/open-standards-for-government/identifying-property-and-street-information</a>
16	SNOMED CT – UK Edition	<a href="https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/information-standards/information-standards-and-data-collections-including-extractions/publications-and-notifications/standards-and-collections/scci0034-snomed-ct">https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/information-standards/information-standards-and-data-collections-including-extractions/publications-and-notifications/standards-and-collections/scci0034-snomed-ct</a>
17	HL7 FHIR UK Core	<a href="https://digital.nhs.uk/services/fhir-uk-core">https://digital.nhs.uk/services/fhir-uk-core</a>
18	ISO 13606 - Electronic Health Record	<a href="https://www.iso.org/standard/67868.html">https://www.iso.org/standard/67868.html</a>
19	openEHR	<a href="https://specifications.openehr.org">https://specifications.openehr.org</a>
20	EN ISO 13940:2016 - A system of concepts for the continuity of care	<a href="https://www.iso.org/standard/58102.html">https://www.iso.org/standard/58102.html</a>
21	ISO 3166 Country Codes	<a href="https://www.iso.org/iso-3166-country-codes.html">https://www.iso.org/iso-3166-country-codes.html</a>
22	ISO 639-1 Language Codes	<a href="https://www.iso.org/iso-639-language-code">https://www.iso.org/iso-639-language-code</a>
23	DICOM	<a href="https://www.dicomstandard.org">https://www.dicomstandard.org</a>