



## **National Interim Clinical Imaging Procedures (NICIP) Code Set Release Covering Letter October 2010 Release – Version 8**

The October 2010 release (Version 8) of the National Interim Clinical Imaging Procedure (NICIP) code set is available from NHS Connecting for Health from the 1st October 2010. The NICIP code set is intended for use in all Clinical Imaging Department information systems.

The NICIP code set has been approved by the Information Standards Board for Health and Social Care (ISB) and the following Data Set Change Notice (DSCN 27/2009) is now available and can be downloaded from:  
<http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/dscn/dscn2009/data-set-change/dscn272009.pdf>

The NICIP codes (with or without SNOMED CT mappings) are only available from the NHS Connecting for Health Data Standards and Products electronic distribution service (also known as the TRUD service). The NICIP code set can be obtained electronically by registering online at [www.uktcregistration.nss.cfh.nhs.uk](http://www.uktcregistration.nss.cfh.nhs.uk)

All previous versions of the NICIP code set are also available from this source, along with the supporting documentation required to assist with safe implementation. In circumstances where customers are unable to access the TRUD service due to licensing restrictions, please contact the Data Standards and Products helpdesk for further advice ([datastandards@nhs.net](mailto:datastandards@nhs.net)).

All procedures within the NICIP code set have a direct map to a SNOMED CT concept. New content, new SNOMED CT mappings, replaced and retired procedure codes are listed additionally on the spreadsheet in separate tabs to highlight the changes for ease of use.

A mapping table (Version 3) from diagnostic imaging codes to OPCS-4.5 is now also available for download, but as test data only for this release. Feedback on the utility of this new table would be most welcome and should be directed to the Data Standards and Products helpdesk ([datastandards@nhs.net](mailto:datastandards@nhs.net)).

In each release some NICIP descriptions or associated data may be modified as the code set regularly undergoes quality assurance review processes. For minor changes, the NICIP codes associated with these procedures are not replaced by new codes as there has been no change to the meaning of the code.

As per notification in April 2010, Korner bands have been removed from the October 2010 NICIP code set release and will no longer be maintained or distributed with any future releases.

For clinical safety reasons it is **strongly recommended** that users update the full code set at each release rather than extracts from it. The detail of minor changes contained within this release of the NICIP code set is available on request via the Data Standards and Products helpdesk ([datastandards@nhs.net](mailto:datastandards@nhs.net)).

#### **Key statistics for this release**

Total number of procedure codes with history: 9309

Active procedure codes: 3500

New SNOMED CT mapping: 29

New procedure codes: 153

Replaced procedure codes: 11

Retired procedure codes: 0

#### **The list is being made available in four variants:**

##### **1) *With maps to SNOMED CT and with limited term history information***

This version is for those organisations that are migrating from a previous version of the list and use the data in an integrated environment (with systems using SNOMED CT)

##### **2) *Without maps to SNOMED CT but with limited term history information***

This version is for those organisations that are migrating from a previous version of the list and do not use the data in an integrated environment (with systems using SNOMED CT)

##### **3) *A simple list of the latest current descriptions without SNOMED CT mappings and without term history information***

This version is for those organisations using the list for the first time that do not use the data in an integrated environment (with systems using SNOMED CT)

##### **4) *A simple list of the latest current descriptions with SNOMED CT mappings and without term history information***

This version is for those organisations using the list for the first time that use the data in an integrated environment (with systems using SNOMED CT).

The NICIP code set has been delivered to strict editorial principles and is supplied in the form of both a spreadsheet and also, from April 2010 onwards, a tab delimited text file with accompanying implementation guidance. It is strongly recommended that users read the associated NICIP code set implementation guidance and editorial principles. The editorial principles and the implementation guidance highlight many issues that may be informative to users including how to make requests for change. Further information regarding requests for additions or changes can be found in the frequently asked questions available by visiting:

<http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/systemsandservices/data/terminology/imaging/difag.pdf>

Further guidance may be obtained by contacting the Data Standards and Products helpdesk ([datastandards@nhs.net](mailto:datastandards@nhs.net)) – please include the words ‘Diagnostic Imaging’ in any enquiry.

#### **Future releases**

The next release of the NICIP code set will be in April 2011 and thereafter every six months to coincide with the update schedule of SNOMED CT.

Any requests for change and supporting information will need to be received well in advance of that date if they are to be considered for inclusion.

## **Background**

On January 26th 2007 a set of procedure codes and descriptions for use in the representation of Clinical Imaging Procedures was released by NHS Connecting for Health. This effort was the result of several years of informal development and a further 3 years under the direct management of NHS Connecting for Health Data Standards and Products Service.

The work has been overseen and endorsed by a management group consisting of key stakeholders including the following:

- Royal College of Radiologists
- Including numerous RCR special interest groups
- British Nuclear Medicine Society
- British Medical Association
- Royal College of General Practitioners
- Society of Radiographers
- Department of Health
- NHS Connecting for Health
- Regional NHS representatives
- System suppliers
- Representatives of home countries