



Office for Health
Improvement
& Disparities

National Drug and Alcohol Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS)

Core dataset R

Implementation guidance

DAPB0107 Amd 43/2023

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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 change to an existing 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).

This information standard comprises the following documents:

- Change Specification
- Implementation Guidance
- Requirements Specification
- Technical Output Specifications.

An Information Standards Notice (DAPB0107 Amd 43/2023) 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.

Date of publication: 11 January 2024

Amendment history

| Version | Date | Amendment history |
|----------------|-------------|--|
| 0.1 | 30/06/2023 | Draft for review |
| 0.2 | 07/11/2023 | Updated following NHSE review |
| 1.0 | 11/01/2024 | Final formatting and preparation for publication |

Glossary of terms

| Term | Definition |
|------------------------|---|
| Adult | Clients are deemed to be adults if they are aged 18 or over at presentation (triage). |
| Attributor | In NDTMS, the clients' two initials, date of birth, sex and local authority of residence are collectively used to identify an individual. Records relating to individual clients are isolated and linked on the basis of these attributors. This minimises the extent of multiple counting within the datasets. |
| Client | An adult or young person drug or alcohol user, presenting for treatment |
| Core dataset R (CDS-R) | NDTMS datasets that are collected from 1st April 2024. The NDTMS datasets are reviewed every two years and distinguished by letter. |
| DET | The Data Entry Tool (DET) is a system provided by NDTMS for treatment providers that do not have a clinical management system that is capable of producing NDTMS data. |
| DHSC | Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). DHSC is a ministerial department, supported by a number of agencies and partner organisations. |
| Episode | A period of contact with a treatment provider, from referral date to discharge incorporating a set of interventions with a specific care plan. A client may attend one or more interventions/modalities of treatment during the same episode of treatment. A client may also have more than one episode in a year. A client is considered to have been in contact during the year (and hence included in statistics) if any part of an episode occurs within the year. An episode occurs at a single NDTMS agency. A client may perceive his/her treatment as a single pathway of care made up of continuous treatment, however for statistical and performance reasons, NDTMS requires that the pathway of care be broken up into individual episodes of care by provider. |
| NDTMS | The National Drug and Alcohol Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) captures data about structured drug and alcohol treatment in the community and in secure settings (including secure children's homes and IRCs). NDTMS also collect the Criminal Justice Interventions Team (CJIT) dataset which relates to pathways into treatment for criminal justice clients. |
| NDTMS V2 | NDTMS V2 is an online portal provided and maintained for providers to use to submit their NDTMS data. Some providers who do not have an NDTMS compliant third-party software system may also use the NDTMS V2 inbuilt data entry tool (DET) for their NDTMS data entry. |
| OHID | The Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) sits within the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and leads work across government to improve and level up the health of the nation by tackling obesity, improving mental health and promoting physical activity. |

| Term | Definition |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Public Health England (PHE) | Executive agency of the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) that existed to protect and improve the nation's health and wellbeing, and reduce health inequalities. |
| Setting | The setting in which an intervention takes place, for example community, home or residential unit. The same client could be receiving the same intervention in more than one setting within the same episode. |
| Software supplier | Any third-party case file management system provider with the functionality to output a csv file compliant with NDTMS data submission requirement For full details see gov.uk . |
| Structured treatment | <p>Structured treatment follows assessment and is delivered according to a care plan, with clear goals, which are regularly reviewed with the client. It may comprise a number of concurrent or sequential specialist drug and alcohol focused interventions. It addresses multiple or more severe needs that would not be expected to respond, or have already not responded, to less intensive or non-specialist interventions alone. Structured treatment requires a comprehensive assessment of need, and is delivered according to a recovery care plan, which is regularly reviewed with the client. The plan sets out clear goals which include change to substance use, and how other client needs will be addressed in one or more of the following domains: physical and psychological health; criminal involvement and offending; and social functioning.</p> <p>All interventions must be delivered by appropriately trained and competent staff, within supervision and clinical governance structures. Structured drug and alcohol treatment provides integrated access to specialist medical assessment and intervention, and works jointly with mental and physical health services, and safeguarding and family support services according to need.</p> <p>In addition to pharmacological and psychosocial interventions provided as part of the key working or case management function of structured treatment, service users should be provided with the following, as appropriate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • harm reduction advice and information • BBV screening and immunisation • Advocacy • appropriate access and referral to healthcare and health monitoring • crisis and risk management <p>For a full definition of structured treatment see the NDTMS adult drug and alcohol treatment business definitions, appendix A.</p> |
| Treatment journey | A new treatment journey occurs when an individual's latest presentation fulfils all of the following criteria: an earlier episode is not still open, the discharge |

| Term | Definition |
|--------------------|---|
| | date in an earlier episode is not after the discharge date in a later episode and the difference between modality start date in the later episode and the discharge date in the earlier episode is greater than 3 weeks (21 days). |
| Treatment provider | A provider of services for the treatment of drug or alcohol misuse. The agency may be statutory (for example NHS) or non-statutory (for example third sector) and be providing structured or non-structured treatment. Each agency has an NDTMS agency code and there may be several NDTMS agencies at one location as per the requirements of local performance/contract management. |
| Young people | Clients are deemed to be young people if they are aged under 18 at triage. There is no distinction between those with a primary problem substance of drugs (such as cannabis) or alcohol – they are all classified as in substance misuse treatment. |

1. Supporting documents

The implementation guidance should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

Title

[CSV file format](#)

[NDTMS technical definitions](#)

[NDTMS reference data](#)

[Adult drug and alcohol misuse treatment business definitions](#)

[Young people's drug and alcohol treatment business definitions](#)

[Secure setting adult drug and alcohol treatment business definitions](#)

[Secure setting young people's drug and alcohol treatment business definitions](#)

[NDTMS consent and confidentiality guidance](#)

[NDTMS IPS consent](#)

[DAPB0107 Amd 43/2023 Requirements Specification](#)

[DAPB0107 Amd 43/2023 Change Specification](#)

[DAPB0107 Amd 43/2023 Information Standards Notice](#)

[Technical Output Specification - Adult community data set \(AD\) \(Amd 43/2023\)](#)

[Technical Output Specification - Young People community data set \(YP\) \(Amd 43/2023\)](#)

[Technical Output Specification - Secure setting Young People data set \(SA\) \(Amd 43/2023\)](#)

[Technical Output Specification - Secure setting Young People data set \(SY\) \(Amd 43/2023\)](#)

2. Contacts

For general queries about this document please contact: NDTMS.admin@dhsc.gov.uk. Treatment providers should contact their regional NDTMS team if they have any questions. Regional team contact details can be found in the table below. Software suppliers should contact NDTMS.admin@dhsc.gov.uk if they have any questions.

| Region | Email address |
|----------------------------------|--|
| London | NDTMS.London@dhsc.gov.uk |
| South East | NDTMS.SouthEast@dhsc.gov.uk |
| South West | NDTMS.SouthWest@dhsc.gov.uk |
| West Midlands | NDTMS.WestMidlands@dhsc.gov.uk |
| East and East Midlands | NDTMS.Eastern@dhsc.dhsc.uk |
| North West | NDTMS.NorthWest@dhsc.gov.uk |
| North East, Yorkshire and Humber | NDTMS.NorthernAndYorkshire@dhsc.gov.uk |

3. Purpose

NDTMS Core Dataset R (CDS-R) will be introduced in April 2024.

This document is intended to support the implementation of NDTMS CDS-R by software suppliers and drug and alcohol treatment providers. It should be read in conjunction with the supporting documents listed above.

This document also includes information on a variety of topics that impact implementation of the dataset such as information governance, training and ongoing maintenance.

Treatment providers should contact their [regional NDTMS team](#) if they have any questions. Software suppliers should contact NDTMS.admin@dhsc.gov.uk if they have any questions.

4. Introduction

The NDTMS dataset collates information on drug and alcohol treatment in England.

NDTMS data helps drug and alcohol treatment demonstrate the outcomes it achieves for the people it treats and in doing so aids accountability for the money invested in it. NDTMS is a national standard and is applicable to young people and adults within community and secure setting-based treatment providers.

NDTMS data are used to:

- provide measurements that support the outcome and recovery focus of the government's drug strategy
- provide information which can be used to monitor how effective drug and alcohol treatment services are and help to plan and develop services that better meet local needs
- produce statistics and support research about drug and alcohol use and treatment
- provide measures to support the [Public Health Outcomes Framework](#).

Substance misuse treatment providers have been reporting drug and alcohol treatment data to Regional Drug Misuse Databases (RDMDs) since the late 1980s. The National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) was established in 2004 as a central repository for this data collection. NDTMS moved into PHE in 2013. In October 2021, NDTMS moved into the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) within the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC).

This Information Standard is sponsored by the Department of Health and Social Care. It is being led by the National Drug and Alcohol Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS).

The Information Standards Notice has been distributed to NDTMS data providers and commissioners using existing contact lists.

The Requirements Specification outlines how the standard must be technically implemented, and is supported by the [CSV file format](#) document and the [NDTMS technical definitions](#) that software suppliers must comply with. The data extracts must be submitted to NDTMS on a monthly basis by drug and alcohol treatment providers using the NDTMS V2 portal.

[CSV file format](#), [NDTMS technical definitions](#), [NDTMS reference data](#) and [NDTMS business definitions](#) for each dataset are published on ndtms.net and have been distributed to data providers using existing contact lists.

5. Scope of the information standard

The information standard applies to all drug and alcohol treatment providers who are delivering structured treatment, including adult and young people's services, as follows:

- community services including NHS, third sector and private providers
- residential rehabs and inpatient detox centres
- primary care
- secure setting services including:
 - prisons
 - Young Offender Institutions (YOIs)
 - Secure Training Centres (STCs)
 - Immigration Removal Centres (IRCs)
 - Secure children's homes
 - Welfare only homes

The standard also impacts upon all software suppliers who are providing NDTMS compliant systems for providers to use to record and extract NDTMS data.

6. Implementation process

Treatment providers and software suppliers should ensure that they have 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.

They should also ensure they read the [NDTMS CDS-R Requirements Specification](#). This provides a more detailed description of the Information Standard and includes information such as:

- conformance measures for software suppliers and treatment providers
- reporting timescales
- technical architecture
- consent and confidentiality

6.1 Third party case management system suppliers

NDTMS software suppliers are given 6 months to implement CDS-R and a software supplier's workshop will be held in October 2023 to go through all the CDS-R changes and associated [NDTMS documentation](#). NDTMS will provide guidance to facilitate the implementation and offer support to software suppliers as appropriate. With NDTMS's support, software suppliers are expected to provide, as a minimum, a data entry tool and extract function that allows its users to provide NDTMS with the CDS-R data it requires, as per the [NDTMS Requirements Specification](#), [NDTMS technical definitions](#) and [CSV file format document](#).

Each software supplier should ensure that it follows the requirements and conformance criteria detailed in the Requirements Specification, the [CSV file format](#) and the [NDTMS technical definitions](#).

Software suppliers who believe they can provide an NDTMS compliant system should follow the accreditation process detailed [here](#). Software suppliers that have been through the compliance process and are accredited by NDTMS are listed on [gov.uk](#).

6.2 NDTMS Data Entry Tool (DET)

Treatment providers who do not have access to an NDTMS compliant software system are able to use the Data Entry Tool (DET). This is an online data entry tool that is provided and maintained free of charge, to ensure that all treatment providers are able to make NDTMS data submissions. DET will be updated and be CDS-R compliant on 1 April 2024.

6.3 NDTMS treatment providers

Treatment providers should ensure that they follow the requirements and conformance criteria detailed in the [Requirements Specification](#), including utilisation of the [NDTMS consent and confidentiality guidance](#) and the [NDTMS business definitions](#).

6.4 Consent and confidentiality

Due to NDTMS collecting and processing personal information it is necessary for treatment providers to obtain informed and evidenced consent from the service user before collecting data to send to NDTMS.

Consent and confidentiality is covered in full in the [Requirements Specification](#) and in the associated [NDTMS consent and confidentiality guidance](#). Treatment providers must ensure that they are familiar with these documents and the correct process for gaining client consent to share their data with NDTMS.

The NDTMS dataset also collects data for those clients also receiving Individual Placement and Support (IPS). IPS supports people who are affected by drug and alcohol use into employment. It involves intensive, individual support, and a rapid job search followed by in-work support for both the employee and the employer. DHSC is supporting the running of IPS for those in drug and alcohol treatment and wants to understand if it is working well. The additional IPS data includes National Insurance (NI) number and full postcode. For IPS clients, there is a separate [IPS privacy notice and consent form](#).

7. Data quality

Software suppliers and treatment providers can ensure data quality by following the [NDTMS technical definitions](#), [business definitions](#) and [reference data](#) documents which outline the data items and permissible values of each dataset. Some software suppliers have internal validations built into their systems to maximise data quality at point of entry.

As treatment providers submit data to NDTMS V2, there are numerous rigorous system validations in place that the data must satisfy before it is loaded into the NDTMS database. Any errors must be corrected before the file is accepted.

Further data quality work is undertaken by the NDTMS regional teams on a monthly basis to check the accuracy, validity and consistency of the data provided. Data quality reports are available to providers on NDTMS V2 to allow them to check, monitor and improve their data quality.

On a monthly basis NDTMS teams contact treatment providers to highlight data quality issues that need to be resolved prior to the next submission. Regional teams can monitor which providers have/have not downloaded their DQ reports and monitor improvements/changes in data quality. Any providers with poor/decreasing data quality or who are not regularly downloading their DQ reports may be escalated to commissioners. Each regional NDTMS team has a Quality Assurance Strategy outlining the actions they take to improve data quality which they are performance monitored against.

Guidance documents outlining the data quality process, how to download reports, and defining each metric are available on NDTMS V2 and from the [regional NDTMS teams](#).

Appendix A: URLs linked to in this document

| Reference | URL |
|--|---|
| NDTMS business definitions | https://www.ndtms.net/Events |
| CSV file format | https://www.ndtms.net/Events |
| NDTMS technical definitions | https://www.ndtms.net/Events |
| NDTMS reference data | https://www.ndtms.net/Events |
| Adult drug and alcohol misuse treatment business definitions | https://www.ndtms.net/Events |
| Young people's drug and alcohol treatment business definitions | https://www.ndtms.net/Events |
| Secure setting adult drug and alcohol treatment business definitions | https://www.ndtms.net/Events |
| Secure setting young people's drug and alcohol treatment business definitions | https://www.ndtms.net/Events |
| NDTMS consent and confidentiality guidance | https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/confidentiality-guidance-for-drug-and-alcohol-treatment-providers-and-clients |
| NDTMS IPS consent | https://www.ndtms.net/resources/public/IPS%20PN%20consent form NDTMS FINAL%20v1.2.pdf |
| DAPB0107 Amd 43/2023 Requirements Specification | https://digital.nhs.uk/isce/publication/dapb0107 |
| DAPB0107 Amd 43/2023 Change Specification | https://digital.nhs.uk/isce/publication/dapb0107 |
| DAPB0107 Amd 43/2023 Information Standards Notice | https://digital.nhs.uk/isce/publication/dapb0107 |
| Technical Output Specification - Adult community data set (AD) (Amd 43/2023) | https://digital.nhs.uk/isce/publication/dapb0107 |
| Technical Output Specification - Young People community data set (YP) (Amd 43/2023) | https://digital.nhs.uk/isce/publication/dapb0107 |
| Technical Output Specification - Secure setting Young People data set (SA) (Amd 43/2023) | https://digital.nhs.uk/isce/publication/dapb0107 |

| Reference | URL |
|--|---|
| Technical Output Specification - Secure setting Young People data set (SY) (Amd 43/2023) | https://digital.nhs.uk/isce/publication/dapb0107 |
| Public Health Outcomes Framework | https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/public-health-outcomes-framework |
| ndtms.net | https://www.ndtms.net/ |
| NDTMS documentation | https://www.ndtms.net/Events |
| NDTMS accreditation process | https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/software-suppliers-for-the-national-drug-treatment-monitoring-system |
| NDTMS accredited software suppliers | https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/software-suppliers-for-the-national-drug-treatment-monitoring-system/software-suppliers-for-the-national-drug-treatment-monitoring-system |

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