

Data Coordination Board

Information Standards Notice – Change

Acting under delegated authority from the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, the Data Coordination Board (DCB) has approved a change to an existing information standard for publication under section 250 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

You must comply with the change to this standard by the full conformance date specified below.

Standard details	
DCB unique identifier	DCB0028 Amd 45/2019
Name	Treatment Function and Main Specialty Standard, Version 2.0
Approval date	20 March 2020
Publication date	2 April 2020
Standard definition	
Description	<p>This information standard defines the Treatment Function and Main Specialty classifications used to support the national reporting and analysis of clinical workforce activity throughout the NHS, through data sets such as the Commissioning Data Sets (CDS).</p> <p>Treatment Function is a division of clinical work and is based on main specialties, incorporating approved sub-specialties and treatment interests used by lead care professionals. Treatment Function Codes (TFCs) are used to record, report on, extract and flow activity undertaken, irrespective of the type of healthcare professional who performs it</p> <p>Main Specialty is the specialty within which a Consultant is recognised or contracted to the organisation. The main specialties list is aligned to specialties recognised by the Royal Colleges and Faculties and the General Dental Council.</p>
About this change	<p>Changes in this release include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• new TFCs for services that are not currently represented as a Treatment Function, enabling commissioning of new services that are not currently represented in the TFC list to be recorded• amendment of the definitions of existing TFCs that are unclear or no longer accurate• amendment to the names of existing TFCs that are out-of-date• updates to the list of Main Specialties to ensure that the list is aligned with the specialties recognised by the Royal Colleges and Faculties and the General Dental Council• a change of name to the standard, from the previous title of National Specialty List, to better represent the scope of the standard. <p>In addition, the documentation has been updated to provide clarification on the governance and maintenance of the TFCs and the Main Specialty list.</p>

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Scope (Health and Social Care Act 2012)	NHS Services
Applies to	<p>Developers of information standards, data collections and data extractions (ISCE), including NHS Digital, must assess the impact of this change, and build in requirements as appropriate to the next release of their individual ISCE.</p> <p>Health and care organisations must ensure that where Treatment Function and Main Specialty codes are recorded in health IT systems (outside of national ISCE), those systems must use the codes set out in the Requirements Specification.</p>
Impacts upon	<p>Implementation of this information standard impacts all health IT systems suppliers providing systems to the above providers; suppliers should work with their customers to determine necessary changes.</p> <p>Consumers of hospital activity data should review the Change Specification to assess the impact on their analysis and reporting.</p>
Legal authority	<p>This information standard is published under section 250 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.</p> <p>The Main Specialty list reflects specialties recognised by the Royal Colleges and Faculties and the General Dental Council. Changes to these lists are governed by the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training (Amendment) Order of Council 2012.</p>
Link to further documentation	<p>The Change Specification, Requirements Specification and Implementation Guidance are available on the NHS Digital website: www.digital.nhs.uk/isce/publication/dcb0028</p> <p>Further guidance is published by NHS Digital: www.digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/data-tools-and-services/data-services/treatment-function-codes/treatment-function-codes</p>
Contacts	
Sponsor	Tom Denwood, Executive Director of Data, Insights and Statistics, NHS Digital
SRO	Dominic Gair, Information Analysis Lead Manager, NHS Digital
Business Lead	Tom Latham, Business and Operational Delivery Manager, NHS Digital
Help Desk	enquiries@nhsdigital.nhs.uk (quote 'Treatment Function and Main Specialty standard' in subject line)
Dates	
Implementation and conformance dates	<p>Health and care organisations must review the impact of this information standard and make appropriate changes to local health IT systems from 2 April 2020 and before 1 April 2021.</p> <p>Changes to national ISCE will be implemented in agreement with developers of those ISCE.</p>
Post Implementation Review date	31 March 2022

The controlled version of this Information Standards Notice is published on the NHS Digital website: www.digital.nhs.uk/isce/publication/isns