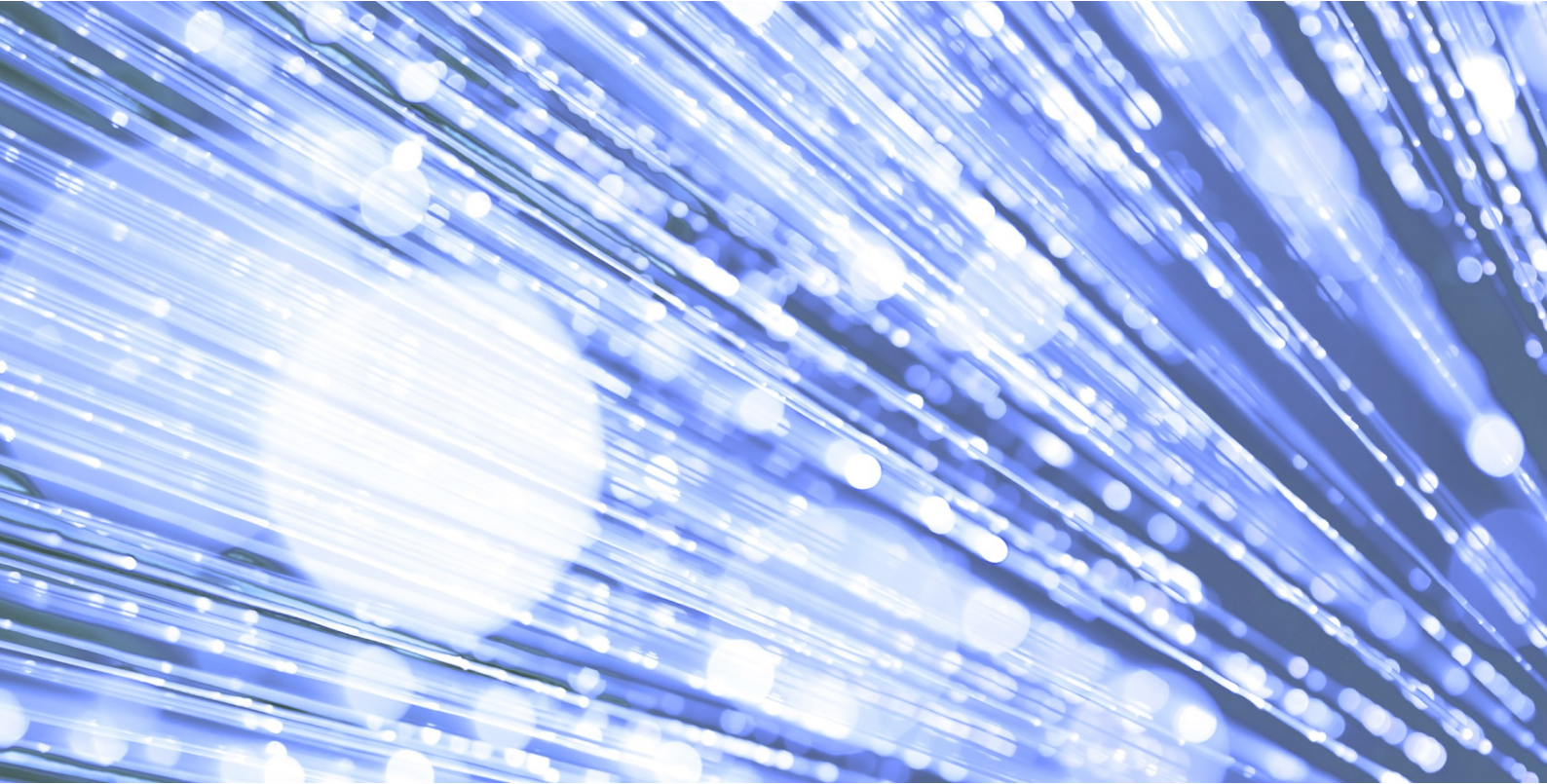


DCB0028 Amd 45/2019

Treatment Function and Main Specialty Standard Requirements Specification

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Data Coordination Board

This information standard (DCB0028) has been approved for publication by NHS England 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 approved by the Data Coordination Board (DCB).

This information standard comprises the following documents:

- Requirements Specification
- Change Specification
- Implementation Guidance.

An Information Standards Notice (DCB0028 Amd 45/2019) 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 Digital 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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Glossary of terms

Term/ Abbreviation	Definition
CDS	Commissioning Data Sets. CDS form the basis of data on activity carried out by NHS Trusts reported centrally for monitoring and payment purposes. They support the current Healthcare Resource Group (HRG) version 4 for calculation of payment to trusts and monitoring of other initiatives including the 18 weeks Referral to Treatment standard.
Conformance Date	The date when services and IT systems must conform to standards and meet the specification as set out in the mandate and guidance.
DCB	The Data Coordination Board (DCB) is a sub-group of the Digital Delivery Board. Empowered by the Health and Social Care Act 2012, the DCB has delegated responsibility for approving information standards for the health and social care system in England. The DCB membership is drawn from a range of organisations operating within health and social care. Previously known as the Standardisation Committee for Care Information (SCCI).
DSDS	Data Set Development Service – the team within NHS Digital responsible for developing and updating a number of national data sets and standards, including DCB0028.
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
HES	Hospital Episode Statistics – a database containing details of all admissions, A and E attendances and outpatient appointments at NHS hospitals in England. Initially collected as part of CDS, this data is submitted to NHS Digital and processed and used for non-clinical purposes, such as research and planning health services. This is the HES data set.
Information Standard	An information standard is a formal set of documents approved and issued by the Data Coordination Board (DCB). It defines technical criteria, content, methods, processes and practices for implementation across health and social care in England.
NHS Digital	A data, information and technology organisation providing resources for the health and care system which plays a fundamental role in driving better care, better services and better outcomes for patients in England. Previously (and still legally) known as the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC).
Secondary Uses	Re-using clinical and operational information for purposes other than direct patient care; for example, national reporting.
SNOMED CT	SNOMED CT is an international clinical terminology that provides machine readable codes for clinical concepts; the clinical concepts being also represented in a consistent and human readable form through descriptions. SNOMED CT has been selected and approved as the terminology to be adopted by the NHS in England.
TFC	Treatment Function Code - a division of clinical work based on main specialities but also incorporating approved sub-specialities and treatment interests used by lead care professionals
TFMG	Treatment Function Maintenance Group – a group created to maintain the list of Treatment Functions. Hosted by NHS Digital, group members work in healthcare capacities, at NHS England and NHS Improvement, and within specialist units of NHS Digital itself, including the NHS Data Model and Dictionary and Information Representation Services. The TFMG provides an independent review of candidate Treatment Functions to assess their suitability for inclusion based on the pre-existing acceptance criteria.

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1. Overview

This product precisely defines the Treatment Function and Main Specialty Standard. The Summary section below describes the standard; the following Requirements and Conformance Criteria sections explain what is required of care providers and systems to conform to the standard, and the way this will be tested respectively.

This document is the formal definition of the standard.

1.1. Summary

Standard	
Standard Number	DCB0028
Standard Title	Treatment Function and Main Specialty Standard
Description	<p>The Treatment Function and Main Specialty Standard covers 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 Codes (TFCs) are a division of clinical work based on main specialities but also incorporating approved sub-specialties and treatment interests used by lead care professionals. This includes special interests and services provided by non-doctors and dentists.</p> <p>TFCs are used to record, report on, extract and flow activity undertaken, irrespective of the type of Healthcare Professional who performs it, and their use is not restricted to consultants.</p> <p>Main Specialty is the specialty within which a Consultant is recognised or contracted to the organisation and it is aligned to specialties recognised by the Royal Colleges and Faculties and the General Dental Council. Main Specialties have historically been aligned to the European Specialist Medical Qualifications Order 1995 and European Primary and Specialist Dental Qualifications Regulations 1998, in Anglicised form. It is too soon to say whether professions will continue to be aligned; however changes to the list are governed by the ‘Health Care and Associated Professions’ statutory instruments.</p> <p>The former ‘National Specialty List’ standard was last updated in 2012. The specific aims of this update are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve data quality by introducing 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 • re-name TFCs that are considered out-dated • modify the definitions of TFCs that are unclear or no longer accurate • update the list of Main Specialties to ensure that the list is aligned with the relevant statutory instrument • clarify the future scope of TFCs that represent specialised services • update the criteria used to define TFCs • update the standard’s name • define the future update process for TFCs.

Scope	<p><u>In Scope</u></p> <p>This standard mandates the use of the updated TFC and Main Specialty Code lists within data sets and collections, in particular CDS. The updated list is available on the NHS Digital website.</p> <p>This proposal will affect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisations that submit data to CDS, and other data sets which include the TFC or Main Specialty Code data items • Organisations that commission health care services • Third parties who supply the systems used to submit this data • SUS (NHS Digital), who process this data • NHS Data Model and Dictionary, who own the list of TFCs • Data Access Request Service (DARS) customers who use CDS assets, and other data users • Finance divisions and departments within national (e.g. NHS England and NHS Improvement) and local organisations. <p>The disciplines of all consultants contracted with NHS Organisations under a particular recognised specialty are in scope of the Main Specialty list, as well as non-consultant lead professionals such as midwives, nurses and other care professionals.</p> <p>TFCs are used to record, report on, extract and flow activity undertaken by all care professionals. The scope and eligibility criteria of the Treatment Functions is set out in the separate ‘Treatment Function Acceptance Criteria’ document.</p> <p>Equivalent SNOMED CT qualifiers are available for use in documentation metadata, these are shown alongside the relevant TFC or Main Specialty Code. They are not to be used in central returns. It is expected that the preferred terms in the UK realm language reference set will match the TFCs and Main Specialty Codes detailed here. However, Fully Specified Names may differ due to the international use of SNOMED CT.</p> <p>This standard applies to the NHS in England. Very similar standards exist in other ‘home nations’ of the United Kingdom, however they are separately maintained by the appropriate bodies.</p> <p><u>Out of Scope</u></p> <p>The separate ‘Treatment Function Acceptance Criteria’ document lists a number of exceptions to the scope of the TFC list. In particular, Treatment Functions which take place outside hospital settings are out of scope. However, this is planned to be reviewed for the next release with the potential to formally expand the scope in future.</p> <p>Additionally, data sets and collections which do not use the TFC or Main Specialty Code data items are not required to implement the changes to this standard. However, developers of other standards are required to utilise these lists where appropriate, and in preference to creating their own lists of services or specialties.</p>
Applies to	<p><u>Organisation Types</u></p> <p>Organisations which provide data for data sets such as CDS, or that use the TFC and/or Main Specialty Code lists locally, are required to update their systems in order to conform with this updated standard. Informatics Staff/IT Staff will be responsible for the configuration of Systems, including the setting up of consultant details with their recognised and contracted specialty.</p>

	<p>Suppliers of PAS and clinical systems will be responsible for changing systems to include the new codes on existing value lists or, where local codes are already available, migrating or mapping to the new codes for national reporting purposes.</p> <p><u>Secondary Users of Data</u></p> <p>The updated standard will be used by a wide variety of organisations for the national analysis of activity by main specialty, including in Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) derived from CDS.</p> <p>The TFC and Main Specialty Code lists will be used within all NHS organisations which employ consultants and report activity nationally.</p> <p><u>Developers of other standards</u></p> <p>The updated TFC and Main Specialty Code data items will be used in other data sets and collections.</p> <p>Any new standard which utilises TFCs and/or Main Specialty Codes must use the version of the data items mandated by this standard. Any existing standards which utilise TFCs and/or Main Specialty Codes should update these at the earliest opportunity, i.e. the next time the standard is updated.</p>
Release	
Release Number	45/2019
Release Title	Version 2.0
Description	<p>An ongoing requirement exists to update the Treatment Functions and Main Specialities in order to ensure that they remain 'fit for purpose'.</p> <p>The purpose of this update is to add new codes, make changes to existing codes and remove defunct codes. These updates will help re-align the lists with how services and care are now provided by clinicians. The scope of the standard has also undergone review.</p>
Implementation Date	<p><u>System Conformance</u></p> <p>From 1 April 2021 relevant systems MUST be fully conformant with this standard, i.e. able to collect and extract the updated TFCs and Main Specialty Codes.</p> <p><u>Health and Care Organisations</u></p> <p>From 1 April 2021 care providers MUST be able to collect the updated TFCs and Main Specialty Codes for local use.</p> <p>From 1 April 2021 care providers SHOULD be able to submit the updated TFCs and Main Specialty Codes, as required in any data sets or collections mandated through separate ISNs. This standard does not dictate when other standards will be updated to take into account the updated TFCs and Main Specialty Codes introduced in this release.</p> <p><u>Developers of other standards</u></p> <p>From 1 April 2021, developers of other standards MUST include the updated TFCs and Main Specialty Codes within their data sets/collections.</p>
Full Conformance Date	1 April 2021 - This date aligns with the start of the 2021/22 financial year, allowing the new/amended TFCs to take effect in payments for 2021/22.

1.2. Supporting documents

This document should be read in conjunction with the following:

Ref #	Title
1	Treatment Function and Main Specialty Standard - Change Specification
2	Treatment Function and Main Specialty Standard - Code List Specification
3	Treatment Function and Main Specialty Standard - Implementation Guidance
4	NHS Data Model and Dictionary Change Request

Please see section 2.4 of the *Implementation Guidance* for a full list of supporting documents along with descriptions of each document.

1.3. Related standards

Reference	Title
DCB0011	Mental Health Services Data Set (MHSDS)
DCB1513	Maternity Services Data Set (MSDS)
ISB 0092	Commissioning Data Sets (CDS)
DCB0092-2062	Commissioning Data Sets: Emergency Care Data Set
ISB 0153	Critical Care Minimum Data Set
DCB2212	Drugs Patient Level Contract Monitoring
DCB3003	Patient Level Contract Monitoring
DCB2050	Aggregate Contract Monitoring
DCB2123	Patient Level Information and Costing Systems (PLICS) Data Set
SCCI2026	Female Genital Mutilation Enhanced Dataset
ISB 0112	Inter-Provider Transfer Administrative Minimum Data Set
SCCI0034	SNOMED CT
SCCI0021	International Classification of Diseases

2. Health and care organisations

2.1. Requirements

- 1) From 1 April 2021 care providers **MUST** be able to collect the updated TFCs and Main Specialty Codes for local use.
- 2) From 1 April 2021 care providers **SHOULD** be able to submit the updated TFCs and Main Specialty Codes, as required in any data sets or collections mandated through separate ISNs. Care providers **MAY** also need to submit the previous TFCs and Main Specialty Codes in the event that other standards which use these data items are yet to be updated. Section 5.4 of the Implementation Guidance describes this in more detail.
- 3) Upon publication of this Information Standard, providers **SHOULD** review this Requirements Specification to fully understand the background, objectives and scope of this information standard and establish the impact on their local systems and data flows.
- 4) Upon publication of this Information Standard providers **SHOULD** review the updated lists of TFCs and Main Specialty Codes in order to understand any local system configuration activity required in order to record the updated codes.
- 5) Upon publication of this Information Standard, providers **SHOULD** inform their commissioners of the changes and discuss the implementation with them.
- 6) To support the implementation of this information standard, care providers **SHOULD** highlight any issues with the TFC and Main Specialty Code data items and feed these back to the standard's developers and the Treatment Function Maintenance Group. Requests for new TFCs, or amendments to existing TFCs, should be made by emailing enquiries@nhsdigital.nhs.uk including 'Request for new TFC' in the subject line.

2.2. Conformance Criteria

This section describes the tests that can be measured to indicate that the information standard is being used correctly by a provider organisation (conformance criteria).

- 1) Conformance will be measured through assessing whether all data sets which use TFCs and Main Specialty Codes are using the values that can be found in the latest version of this standard. This includes all operational data sets such as CDS.
- 2) The number of records conforming to the standard in terms of valid TFCs and/or Main Specialty Codes for reporting activity (greater than 100 records) will be assessed within central submissions.

3. Systems

3.1. Requirements

- 1) From 1 April 2021 relevant systems **MUST** be fully conformant with this standard, i.e. able to collect the updated TFCs and Main Specialty Codes.
- 2) From 1 April 2021 systems **SHOULD** allow the extraction of the updated TFCs and Main Specialty Codes, as required in any data sets or collections mandated through separate ISNs.
- 3) Changes made to systems **SHOULD** result in minimal increased burden for care providers in recording and extracting the Treatment Function and Main Specialty information, and any additional burden **SHOULD** be proportionate.
- 4) Organisations using, configuring and/or designing systems **SHOULD** review all related documents to fully understand the background, objectives and scope of this information standard. This **MAY** involve engaging with IT system suppliers.

3.2. Conformance Criteria

- 1) Conformance will be measured through assessing whether all local systems which use TFCs and Main Specialty Codes are either recording or capable of mapping to the values that can be found in the latest version of this standard. This will be assessed through CDS submissions/validation and SUS+ Data Quality Reports.

4. Developers of other standards

4.1. Requirements

- 1) From 1 April 2021, developers of other standards which use TFCs or Main Specialty Codes **MUST** include the updated codes within their data sets/collections at the earliest possible opportunity, i.e. when a new standard is created or the next time an existing standard is updated.
- 2) Data set owners **MUST** be receptive of changes to data sets that may be impacted by this Fundamental Standard.

4.2. Conformance Criteria

- 1) Conformance will be measured through assessing the inclusion of the updated TFCs and Main Specialty Codes in other data sets and collections approved by DCB.