

# National Cancer Waiting Times Monitoring Data Set Version 2.1 Change Specification

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**Information and technology**  
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# Data Coordination Board

This information standard (DCB0147) has been approved for publication by the Department of Health and Social Care 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 Coordination Board (DCB), a sub-group of the Digital Delivery Board.

This information standard comprises the following documents:

- Requirements Specification
- Implementation Guidance
- Change Specification.

An Information Standards Notice (DCB0147 Amd 16/2019) has been issued as a notification of use and implementation timescales. Please read this alongside the documents for the standard.

The controlled versions 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.

Date of publication: 2 April 2020

## **Update: 17 December 2020**

At the time of publication of version 2.1 (2 April 2020) the implementation and conformance dates of this standard were noted by the DCB as being subject to change depending on the need for continuing frontline investment in COVID-19 activity.

The conformance date has been extended by a further month and full conformance is now expected with the submission of the December 2020 reporting activity between 6 January and 2 February 2021. The Requirements Specification, Change Specification, and Implementation Guidance have been updated to reflect this.



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## 1. Background context and summary

The National Cancer Waiting Times Monitoring Data Set (NCWTMDS) collects and monitors data related to the measures set for cancer care in the ‘Handbook to the NHS Constitution’ (pages 29 to 30). The data is collected directly from NHS providers in England on a monthly basis. The data flows through to provider, commissioning, regional, cancer alliance and national users, and is managed by, NHS Digital. NHS England and NHS Improvement is provided with monthly anonymised data which is used to produce official statistics publications and internal management reports. Other users of the system can also obtain record level downloads and/or aggregate reports depending on their role and permissions within the system. For further information about accessing CWT data, prospective users should email NHS Digital’s National Service Desk at: [ssd.nationalservicedesk@nhs.net](mailto:ssd.nationalservicedesk@nhs.net).

In March 2019, NHS England published the [Interim Report for the Clinically-led Review of NHS Access Standards](#). This document puts forward proposals to reduce the number of cancer standards from the current nine (10 with the introduction of the Faster Diagnosis Standard) down to three, to ensure focus on diagnosis and treatment. The report also states an ambition to reflect modern clinical practice and increasing personalisation of treatment in the remaining standards. Confirmation of the Standards and timeline for official reporting will be available on the [NHS Digital CWT website](#).

A technical consultation on the changes to the data set was carried out in April 2019, receiving responses from cancer service providers, Cancer Alliances, charities, and regional health organisations. These changes are reflective of developments in cancer clinical practice, and understanding of the best ways to improve patient outcomes, pathways and experience. In addition, proposals are made to remove data items which are no longer required, or collected through other data sets.

To implement a new data set, NHS England and NHS Improvement has worked with NHS Digital to set out changes that have been approved and sign off by the Data Coordination Board (DCB). The data set change will be supported by revisions to the detailed [National Cancer Waiting Times Monitoring Data Set Guidance](#) prior to the data set implementation date.

Policy decisions to determine the final data set and the cancer standards were taken following a systematic review of responses received from the technical consultation and the views received from our wider engagement activities as part of the Clinically-led Review of NHS Access Standards.

## 2. Summary of data set changes

Total number of data items in this release:	54
Number of new items added (since last release):	3
Number of items amended (since last release):	18
Number of items retired (since last release):	3

Appendix 1 describes the changes to the data items collected in the NCWTMDS. The appendix is published on the NHS Digital website: <https://digital.nhs.uk/isce/publication/dcb0147>

The new data set will be implemented from July 2020 patient activity reporting period (submission upload in CWT system between 3 August and 2 September 2020) and become

mandatory from November 2020 patient activity reporting period (submission upload in Cancer Waiting Times (CWT) system between 3 December 2021 and 4 January 2021).

## 2.1 Impact and Implications

These changes affect the monthly cancer waiting times data return to be submitted by all NHS providers in England.

During the implementation and local system development period an initial burden exists. Users will have to learn how to record and obtain analysis of the new data items and national codes. However, once use of the new release is embedded within local processes, the net increase in burden of the collection in comparison to the previous data set is minimal.

NHS England and NHS Improvement, and NHS Digital, have identified changes to requirements for third party software suppliers. Where possible, required changes to third party systems will be minimised, but as there is a requirement to add new data items, change existing data item validations and remove some redundant data items, it is inevitable that system suppliers will need to make changes to collection and export routines within the systems they supply to providers. A new schema for XML submitters and a new template for CSV submitters has been provided in this release.

## 2.2 Supporting Documents

Ref	Reference	Title
1	<a href="http://www.england.nhs.uk/2013/03/26/nhs-constitution/">http://www.england.nhs.uk/2013/03/26/nhs-constitution/</a>	Handbook to the NHS Constitution
2	<a href="https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/cancer-strategy.pdf">https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/cancer-strategy.pdf</a>	Achieving World Class Cancer Outcomes
3	<a href="https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/information-standards/information-standards-and-data-collections-including-extractions/publications-and-notifications/standards-and-collections/dcb0147-national-cancer-waiting-times-monitoring-data-set">https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/information-standards/information-standards-and-data-collections-including-extractions/publications-and-notifications/standards-and-collections/dcb0147-national-cancer-waiting-times-monitoring-data-set</a>	Implementation Guidance
4	<a href="https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/information-standards/information-standards-and-data-collections-including-extractions/publications-and-notifications/standards-and-collections/dcb0147-national-cancer-waiting-times-monitoring-data-set">https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/information-standards/information-standards-and-data-collections-including-extractions/publications-and-notifications/standards-and-collections/dcb0147-national-cancer-waiting-times-monitoring-data-set</a>	Requirements Specification
5	<a href="https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/data-collections-and-data-sets/data-collections/cancerwaitingtimescwt">https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/data-collections-and-data-sets/data-collections/cancerwaitingtimescwt</a>	National Cancer Waiting Times Monitoring Data Set – A Guide

6	<a href="https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/data-collections-and-data-sets/data-collections/cancerwaitingtimescwt">https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/data-collections-and-data-sets/data-collections/cancerwaitingtimescwt</a>	CWT Standards and timeline for official reporting
7	<a href="https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/test-site-top-tips-learning-from-the-faster-diagnosis-standard-test-sites/">https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/test-site-top-tips-learning-from-the-faster-diagnosis-standard-test-sites/</a>	Test Site Top Tips: Learning from the Faster Diagnosis Standard Test Sites

## Appendix 1

Appendix 1 is a breakdown of the full Cancer Waiting Times data set v2.1. It shows previous data items in the current CWT system and details any changes that are approved for v2.1 of the data set. Appendix 1 can be accessed on the [NHS Digital Information Standard CWT website](#).