

Data Coordination Board

Information Standards Notice – New

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

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

Standard details	
DCB unique identifier	DCB2094 Amd 51/2015
Name	Sexual Orientation Monitoring, Initial Standard
Approval date	14 September 2017
Publication date	5 October 2017
Standard definition	
Description	<p>This information standard provides the mechanism for recording the sexual orientation of all patients/service users aged 16 years and over across all health services and Local Authorities with responsibilities for adult social care in England for the purposes of compliance with the Equality Act 2010.</p> <p>In this standard, sexual orientation is taken to mean:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">the stated physical and emotional attraction a person feels towards one sex or another (or both).</p> <p>Monitoring of sexual orientation will help to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• care providers and commissioners are able to demonstrate that there is equitable access for lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) individuals;• care providers and commissioners have an improved understanding of the impact of inequalities on health and care outcomes for LGB populations;• policy makers, care providers and commissioners can better identify health risks at a population level. This will support targeted preventative and early intervention work to address health inequalities for LGB populations, thereby reducing expenditure linked to treatment costs further down the line. <p>The standard has been based on research conducted by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), and on current practice by those organisations which monitor sexual orientation.</p>
Scope (Health and Social Care Act 2012)	Health Services, NHS Services, Adult Social Care
Applies to	Developers of information standards, data collections and data extractions (ISCE), including NHS Digital, must assess impact and build in requirements as appropriate to the next release of

Data Coordination Board

	<p>their individual ISCE.</p> <p>Health services and Local Authorities with responsibilities for adult social care in England must ensure that where sexual orientation data is recorded in Health IT Systems (outside of national ISCE), those systems must use the question and response codes set out in the Requirements Specification.</p>
Impacts upon	Suppliers of systems and software to care providers and commissioners should be aware of this information standard and work with their customers to determine any appropriate changes to products.
Legal authority	<p>This information standard is published under section 250 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.</p> <p>It enables compliance with obligations under the Equality Act 2010.</p>
Link to further documentation	<p>The Requirements Specification and Implementation Guidance are available on the NHS Digital website:</p> <p>www.content.digital.nhs.uk/isce/publication/sexual-orientation-monitoring</p> <p>Further guidance is published by NHS England:</p> <p>www.england.nhs.uk/about/equality/equality-hub/sexual-orientation-monitoring-information-standard/</p>
Contacts	
Sponsor	Mark Davies, Director, Department of Health
SRO	Neil Churchill, Director of Participation and Experience, NHS England
Business Lead	Caroline Humphreys, NHS England
Help Desk	england.eandhi@nhs.net
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 5 October 2017 and before 31 March 2019.</p> <p>Changes to national ISCE will be implemented in agreement with developers of those ISCE.</p>
Post Implementation Review date	31 October 2018

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