

# Change Specification for Patient-level information and costing systems (PLICS) Acute data set

DCB2123 Amd 90/2019  
Change Specification



## Data Coordination Board

This information standard (DCB2123) has been approved for publication by the Department of Health 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 set out in the specification document has been provided by the Data Coordination Board (DCB), a sub-group of the Data Delivery Board.

This information standard comprises the following documents:

- Specification
- Change Specification
- Implementation guidance

An information standard notice (DCB2123 Amd 90/2019) 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: 26 June 2020

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# Summary

1. This document describes the changes associated with this release of the Information Standard. Details on the purpose, background and context of the standard are shown in the supporting Requirements Specification.

Standard	
Standard Number	DCB2123
Standard Title	Patient level information and costing systems (PLICS) Acute Data Set
Description	<p>Patient-Level Costing (PLC) is being rolled out across all sectors and services from 2018/19 to 2021/22.</p> <p>This version of the standard covers the financial year 2019/20, for which PLC data is being collected for acute services from designated acute providers. This information standard covers the creation of the PLC (Acute) Data Set (PLCADS). This contains unit costs for inpatient admissions, accident and emergency, and outpatient attendances for NHS providers in England.</p> <p>This data set replaces elements of the data collected as part of the reference cost collection which has operated for over 20 years for those designated trusts for acute activity.</p>
Applies to	Acute providers: Designated Trusts published at <a href="https://improvement.nhs.uk/resources/costing-mandation-project/">https://improvement.nhs.uk/resources/costing-mandation-project/</a>
Release	
Release Number	Amd 90/2019
Release Title	Version 2.0
Description	<p>This release incorporates the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PLICS Extract Matching Identifier (PLEMI) - New field to enable data linkage across the PLICS feedtypes</li> <li>• Cystic Fibrosis Banding – New field in the APC and OP extract specifications to allow cystic fibrosis care to be collected at a patient level</li> <li>• Specialist Ward Care (SWC) extract list – A new extract requirement to collect adult critical care at a patient level for 2020. This requires new data items in the PLICS collection – see the Care Activity Details and Currency Details in the SWC extract</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supplementary Information (SI) extract list – A new extract requirement to collect high cost drugs, high cost devices and diagnostic imaging at a patient level for 2020. This requires new data items in the PLICS collection – see the Care Activity Details and Currency Details in the SI extract</li> <li>• Updates to the data set collected in 2019 to align to the Emergency Care data set where necessary and remove fields no longer required</li> <li>• Updates to field descriptions.</li> </ul>
Implementation Date	Acute providers: From 1 April 2019 for 2020 collection onwards
Full Conformance Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Start date - Timetabled for 07 September 2020 (acute services at designated providers).</li> <li>• End date – continuous.</li> </ul>

# Scope

## In-Scope

2. This Information Standard is mandatory for Acute services provided by NHS Trusts in England:
3. The purpose of the associated Extract Specification document is to precisely define the data to be collected and submitted for the Acute patient-level costing submission.
4. NHS England and NHS Improvement has published a mandate timetable. This identifies when it is expected individual trusts will be required to submit patient-level costing information for their services.
5. For activity related to the financial year 2019/20 and will only apply to the designated providers of acute activity.
6. This information standard ONLY applies to acute services provided by the designated NHS Trusts and NHS Foundation Trusts within the Acute Sector.

## Out of Scope

7. The following are out of scope of the requirements of this Information Standard:
8. As Patient Level Costing (PLC) is mandated for other types of services (i.e. Mental Health and Ambulance providers) any future PLICS information standards will be produced or updated accordingly.

## Related Standards

#	Reference	Title
1	<a href="#">ISB 0149</a>	NHS Number
2	DCB0092-2062	Emergency Care Data Set (ECDS)
3	ISB 0153	Critical Care Minimum Dataset (CCMDS)

# Changes to the standard

9. The published [PLICS 2020 Approved Costing Guidance](#) for collection year 2020 supersedes all earlier versions and is mandated for all sectors.
10. The [PLICS Extract Specification](#) sets out details of the data items and fields format required for the PLICS Acute 2020 submission.

## 1. New data item - PLICS Extract Matching Identifier (PLEMI)

- New data item added to all activity feedtypes
- This is defined as a 'Required' field in the [Extract Specification](#)
- This is a new data item to enable data linkage across all the activity feedtypes from one organisation (for both existing feedtypes and new feedtypes for 2020 collection).

## 2. New data item - Cystic Fibrosis Banding

- Cystic Fibrosis (CF) currently collected via the NCC workbook
- In 2020 this is to be collected via the PLICS collection
- New data item added to APC and Outpatients OP feedtypes only
- This is defined as a 'Required' field in the [Extract Specification](#)
- This is a new field in the APC and OP feedtypes to allow Cystic Fibrosis care to be collected at a patient level and to identify the band of treatment.

## 3. New feed type - Specialist Ward Care (SWC)

- New feed type for 2020 collection
- New feed type contains no Personal Demographic data items
- The new data item (PLEMI) will enable linkage of data within this feed type to existing feedtypes (APC, OP & EC)
- New feed type contains new data items as defined in the [Extract Specification](#)
- Some of these new data items are defined as a 'Mandatory' field in the Extract Specification
- Some of these new data items are defined as a 'Required' field in the Extract Specification

- These new data items relate to activity undertaken for Adult Critical Care only for the 2020 collection, with a view of expanding the scope to allow additional services in future years (for example Paediatric and Neonatal)
- For inpatient critical care, NHS England and NHS Improvement costing team propose to use the Critical Care Minimum Dataset (CCMDS) as a 'master feed' to collect the cost of critical care periods separately to core episode at patient level.

#### **4. New feed type - Supplementary Information (SI)**

- New feed type for 2020 collection
- New feed type contains no Personal Demographic data items
- The new data item (PLEMI) will enable linkage of data within this feed type to existing feedtypes (APC, OP & EC)
- New feed type contains new data items as defined in the [Extract Specification](#)
- All the new data items are defined as a 'Mandatory' field in the [Extract Specification](#)
- These new data items relate to activity undertaken for high cost drugs, high cost devices and Diagnostic Imaging and its associated costs
- Activity data within this feed type will contain elements of costs which go alongside the package of care to deliver the outcome of the treatment.
- There will be no other high cost data items except in the SI feed type
- For diagnostic imaging, it would not be included in OP feed type but would remain coupled to the EC and APC attendance
- For the 2019 collection the cost of high cost drugs was duplicated in both the NCC workbook and the PLICS data causing significant burden on all NCC stakeholders
- The NHSE&I tariff teams are keen to understand which patients receive these high cost elements so that they can accurately fund the elements separately to the core HRG tariff using the most up to date cost data.

#### **5. Updates to feed type name - Emergency Care data set alignment**

- Rename of feed type from A&E to EC
- Historically this was referred to as Accident & Emergency Care (AE)
- The feed type relating to Emergency Care (EC) activity has been renamed in the [Extract Specification](#)
- For the 2020 collection, the data will still flow under the old feed type of 'AE'. This is because a decision was taken not to implement the name change in the technical systems for 2020 due to the significant impact it would have on current systems now,

when a migration to the new Data Services Platform is planned for 2021 (i.e. change will only apply in documentation).

## 6. Updates to existing data items - Emergency Care data set alignment

- New data items added to replace existing date / time fields
- The date / time fields are required for linkage to Hospital Episodes Statistics (HES)
- New data items added:
  - ***Arrival date at emergency department***
  - ***Arrival time at emergency department***

These two data items replace:

- ***Arrival date and time at emergency department*** field
- New data items added:
  - ***Departure date from emergency department***
  - ***Departure time from emergency department***
- These two data items replace:
  - ***Departure date and time from emergency department*** field.

## 7. Removal of data items - Consultant Code

- Removal of the following data items from APC, OP and EC feed types:
  - ***Consultant Code***
- NHS England and NHS Improvement confirmed Consultant Code is no longer required to flow in the above feed types as it can be obtained via linkage.

## 8. Removal of data items - Emergency care discharge destination

- Removal of the following data items from EC feed type:
  - ***Emergency care discharge destination***
- NHS England and NHS Improvement confirmed Discharge fields are no longer required to flow in the EC feed type.

## 9. Updates to existing data items – Ordering of data items

Introduction of a more logical grouping of data items by:

- Grouped Personal and Demographic data items together
- Grouped all activity data items together
- Grouped all currency (i.e. HRGs) related data items together

- Structure of data items revised to align with structure of schemas and data model view.

## **10. Updates to existing data items – Organisation Identifier (code of Submitting Organisation)**

- Update of data item field format length for all feedtypes
- The implementation ANANA codes has been provisionally deferred from 01/04/2020 to 01/09/2020 <sup>1</sup>
- Trusts are to continue using their existing 3-character code for their (Organisation identifier (Code of submitting organisation)) until the change is implemented and new codes provided.

<sup>1</sup> The NHS Digital Organisation Data Service has taken the decision to delay the introduction of the planned new ANANA format organisation codes that were scheduled to be allocated to new records created from 1 April. The originally scheduled date of 1 April is therefore postponed until at least 1 September. This revised date is provisional and will remain under review.

# Issues and Maintenance

17. To support the implementation of this information standard any persistent issues should be fed back to the standard's developers. Feedback will be used by the developers for future development and to improve implementation of the standard. Send feedback to [PLICS@nhs.net](mailto:PLICS@nhs.net) (please include 'PLICS Acute Standard' in the subject line).

Contact us:

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