

Data Coordination Board

Information Standards Notice – Deprecation

Details are given below of the deprecation of an information standard formerly approved by the Information Standards Board for Health and Social Care (ISB).

This deprecation has been accepted by the Data Coordination Board (DCB), a successor of the ISB.

Enquiries about this Notice should be directed to the contact specified below.

Standard details	
ISB identifier and name	This deprecation is of the ISB information standard, ISB 1572 Sensitive Data (DSCN 41/1998)
Date of DCB meeting	<p>This deprecation was formally accepted at the February 2021 meeting of the Data Coordination Board.</p> <p>Items which are deprecated still have some value and may still be used with caution, but are no longer being maintained and supported. There is an assumption that a replacement standard or guidance will be published and that on such publication, the deprecated item will be formally withdrawn.</p>
Background	
	<p>There are legal constraints to sharing some specific personal data items which have the potential to flow for indirect care purposes specifically in the areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gender recognition• In vitro fertilisation• Sexually transmitted infections. <p>ISB 1572, Sensitive Data, was published in March 1999 and set out rules for the removal of patient-identifiable data within the main NHS data sets of that time for specified diseases and operations. The original standard was approved by a working group responsible to the Chief Medical Officer and subsequently agreed as national policy by the NHS Executive Board.</p> <p>During the intervening period, legislation, definitions and guidance have all but made this standard obsolete. There is a consequent need to produce a new standard and/or guidance to ensure the identification of sensitive and/or legally restricted data, consistent with current legislation, terminology and practice, and hence ensure that such data does not flow.</p> <p>It is known that other lists have been developed, each with legitimate purpose, but with no evidence of assurance or any</p>

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	<p>active coordination of how they are populated and maintained. Though in active use, a future standard may want to set out parameters and criteria for that use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a set of ICD/OPCS codes • A set of SNOMED CT codes • A list of British National Formulary (BNF) medicines. <p>The DCB is therefore deprecating this standard, ahead of any new policy and guidance being developed and implemented, to ensure user awareness of the risks of continued use. There is a need for the development of policy in order to inform content of a new information standard which the DCB will welcome as a clear statement of what needs to be done to ensure the accurate identification of sensitive and/or legally restricted data.</p> <p>Formal retirement of ISB 1572 will take place on approval of this new standard or guidance.</p>
Link to further documentation	<p>The briefing paper which was used as the basis of the approval of this deprecation is published alongside this Deprecation Notice:</p> <p>https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/information-standards/information-standards-and-data-collections-including-extractions/publications-and-notifications/standards-and-collections/standards-and-collections---withdrawn</p>
Contact details for further information	
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Help Desk	Email: standards.assurance@nhs.net
Dates	
Date of publication of this ISN	11 March 2021