

WELSH HEALTH CIRCULAR



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Issue Date: 23.01.2015

STATUS: COMPLIANCE

CATEGORY: PERFORMANCE/DELIVERY

Title: DSCN and reporting template for Outpatient Follow-up Delay Reporting Data Collection

Date of Expiry / Review 31 March 2015

For Action by:

Chief Operating Officers or Directors of planning and or Performance- all HBs and Velindre Trust
Heads of Information all HBs and Velindre Trust

Action required by: 31 January 2015

Timetable of reporting included in guidance

Sender: Lesley Law

DHSS Welsh Government Contact(s) :

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Enclosure(s): Letter



Chief Operating Officers
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board
Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
Cardiff & Vale University Health Board
Cwm Taf University Health Board
Hywel Dda University Health Board

Ein Cyf/Our Ref: LL/sr

23 January 2014

Dear Colleague

WHC/2015/005 Outpatient Follow-up Backlog Monitoring

Following the letter 28 November regarding outpatient follow-up backlog monitoring, I can now confirm that the standard has been progressed via the Information Standards Assurance Process and a Data Set Change Notice (DSCN) and data collection tool have been approved by the Welsh Information Standards Board.

DSCN 2014 / 02 outlines the information / data requirements with effect from the 1st January 2015 (submitted February 2015) and can be access via the Information Standards Site:

<http://www.nwisinformationstandards.wales.nhs.uk/dscns-2015>

The purpose of the return is to highlight the number of patients still waiting (delayed) at the end of each month for an outpatient follow-up appointment. We need to know how many are waiting and by what percentage they are delayed based on the target date (please refer to DSCN for full technical guidance relating to the calculation of the delay).

As a result of discussions with the Welsh Information Standards Board we are exploring the submission of a patient level data set via the NHS Wales Informatics Service as a longer term solution.



It was also agreed that until April the report would be limited to patients waiting over their target date who have not been given an actual date to return for their follow-up appointment (referred to as 'booked patients') to reduce the burden on Health Boards.

However, we expect to include reporting of delayed outpatient appointments for those patients who are booked from 1st April 2015 onwards in order to understand the totality of delayed outpatient appointments.

A revised DSCN and data collection template will be issued from April onwards. Welsh Audit Office is planning to undertake an audit on outpatients in the New Year and will be looking for information on follow-up to support this review. Please contact me on 0300062 5560 or Lesley.Law@wales.gsi.gov.uk if you wish to discuss.

Many thanks

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lesley Law', written in a cursive style.

Lesley Law
Head of Scheduled Care

c.c. Heads of Information
Andrew Carruthers, Delivery Programme Director, WG