INFORMATION STANDARDS GOVERNANCE PROCESS

INFORMATION STANDARD FINAL PROPOSAL
FOR NEW OR CHANGED (INCLUDING RETIRED) INFORMATION STANDARD

Cataracts Surgery
Waiting Times Reporting

October 2009
INFORMATION STANDARD FINAL PROPOSAL
FOR NEW OR CHANGED (INCLUDING RETIRED) INFORMATION STANDARD

This document should be completed using the GUIDANCE ON COMPLETING THE “INFORMATION STANDARD FINAL PROPOSAL NOTIFICATION” SUBMISSION TEMPLATE

REVISION HISTORY
Date of this revision:

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SUBMITTED BY:

Document completed by: Claudia Blair
Role & organisation: Hospital Service Statistics, Welsh Assembly Government

FEEDBACK TO BE PROVIDED TO:
Feedback will be provided on the Proposal within 10 days of the WIGSB meeting. If the feedback is to be directed to another nominee please provide the name and contact details below.

Name: Claudia Blair
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SUBMISSION PURPOSE
Proposal submitted for: Final Proposal

If this Proposal submission is not for formal approval then please state the specific aspects on which you would like more detailed comments.

Specific Areas for WIGSB to comment on when not submitting for formal approval at the Proposal stage
## SECTION 1: BACKGROUND

1. **Information Standards Reference Number [From Information Services Division]**
   
   IGRN 2009/09

2. **Name of Information Standard**
   
   Waiting Times Data Collection – Cataract Surgery

3. **Type of change**
   
   Amendment to existing standard

4. **Type of standard [Select all that apply]**
   
   Operational

5. **Introduction**
   
   WHC (2006)092 set out requirements for Trusts to supply information on cataract surgery waiting times in order to monitor targets set for 2005/2006:
   
   - All patients to be seen within 4 months for a cataract procedure (31st March 2006).
   
   This data is supplied monthly to the Health Statistics and Analysis unit of the Welsh Assembly Government, and includes data from English trusts treating Welsh patients.

   The data is supplied on the basis of weeks waited, in line with other waiting times data.

6. **Sponsor**
   
   Martyn Rees, DHSS

7. **Developer**
   
   HSA

8. **Implementation Date**
   
   November 2009
SECTION 2: BUSINESS JUSTIFICATION

9. Purpose

The purpose of this submission is to retire the flow of data on cataract surgery waiting times from NHS Health Boards to Health Statistics and Analysis Unit via the Business Service Centres.

The targets set in 2005/2006 for waiting times for cataracts were not included in subsequent AOF targets. Instead, treatments for cataracts are to be part of the overall referral to treatment times target, that is

- To reduce referral to treatment times to a maximum of 26 weeks by 31 December 2009.

The collection of cataract surgery waiting times continued to monitor against previous targets while other measures were developed to monitor the new target. Health Boards are now been reporting monthly Referral to Treatment (RTT) data to the Welsh Assembly Government via Health Solutions Wales. This data has been published in a regular statistical release since February 2009. Cataract treatment information has not been published since April 2008.

The cataract waiting times information was not collected for any other purpose than monitoring the AOF targets and since Referral to Treatment target supersedes this it is no longer used or required.

10. Scope

This proposal relates only to the data collections for cataract surgery waiting times, as specified in WHC (2006)092. This data is collected from Trusts/Health Boards by the BSCs and then supplied to HSA.

11. Funding

There are no known implementation or support costs for this existing data flow.

12. Support

No additional support required.
SECTION 3: HEALTH INFORMATION STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL FIT

13. Strategic Fit

There are links between this data flow and the Referral to Treatment times (as described in the “purpose” section).

Information on component waits for first outpatient appointments and admission to hospital are also collected and would include waits for cataract operations, although not explicitly. These and the referral to treatment times are collected at specialty level, not procedure level.

Information on time waited from decision to treat and admission for treatment will continue to be available from PEDW data, where the treatment is carried out as a day case or inpatient admission.

14. Operational Fit

Trusts/Health Boards submit monthly data on waits for cataract surgery alongside component waiting times figures (for inpatients/day cases and outpatients). These data flows have been considered in the light of current business requirements.

15. Known standards in use nationally and internationally

Scotland has a target “The maximum wait from referral by a GP or optometrist to surgery will be 18 weeks. This will be implemented across the NHS in Scotland by the end of 2007” (Fair To All, Personal To Each, Scottish Government 2004). An interim solution has been to measure progress towards these targets by measuring and reporting the component parts of the journey. However, differences in Scotland’s and Wales’ waiting list rules mean that data captured for NHS Scotland is not comparable with Welsh data.

England and Northern Ireland do not collect information on waiting times for cataract surgery.

Comparative waiting times information for cataracts for the UK will continue to be available using activity data.

SECTION 4: THE PROPOSAL

16. Proposed Solution

Since there is no longer a target specifically for cataract surgery waiting times, there is no longer a need for a dataset on these waits to be collected and reported on by HSA. There has been no interest in the cataract surgery waiting times data since we ceased publication in April 2008.

It is proposed that the collection of this data by HSA is stopped with effect from November 2009.

17. Fitness for Purpose

This proposal has been developed in conjunction with the policy lead for waiting times and the proposed solution has been considered fit for their needs.
18. Testing / Pilot

No testing or pilot is required as the data flow is already in operation.

19. Information Governance

There are no Information Governance considerations.

20. Commercial Considerations

None known.

SECTION 5: IMPACT ASSESSMENT

21. Impact Assessment

Information on cataract surgery waits is no longer published in the NHS Waiting Times released by HSA and nor is the data still updated on StatsWales. The statistical release states that this is no longer a target.

SECTION 6: IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

22. Implementation plan

A ministerial letter will be issued to notify local health boards of the change to these collections.

23. Official Documentation

None.

SECTION 7: MAINTENANCE AND REVIEW

24. Maintenance Process

No maintenance required.

25. Planned review dates

Not applicable.