



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

Chief Executives – Health Boards  
Chief Executives – NHS Trusts  
Chief Executive – HCW  
Director, Delivery and Support Unit  
Regional Directors

**Mr Paul Williams OBE OStJ DL**  
**Cyfarwyddwr Cyffredinol, Iechyd a**  
**Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol,**  
**Prif Weithredwr, GIG Cymru**  
**Director General, Health & Social Services**  
**Chief Executive, NHS Wales**

Eich cyf/ Your ref:  
Ein cyf / Our ref: PMW/THOMAS/BS

9 March 2010

Dear Colleagues

### **Emergency Department Data Set (EDDS) Data Validity Standards**

This letter formally mandates the introduction of the Emergency Department Data Set (EDDS) Data Validity standards for NHS Wales.

Emergency Department Data Set (EDDS) data is collected by Local Health Boards (LHBs) and Trusts and submitted to the national database on a monthly basis. The data set was initially designed to meet the relevant information needs of the Performance Management, Waiting Times & Emergency Care Division of the Welsh Assembly Government as well as the information requirements of the all-Wales Injury Surveillance System (AWISS). The data also has a range of other uses and can be used to support the management and planning of healthcare services, the evaluation of NHS performance and activity trends and can be a useful source of epidemiological data at both a national and local level.

High quality data are essential if it is to be relied upon to support such processes in NHS Wales, as emphasised in the EH/ML/007/08 - Corporate Health Information Programme (CHIP) Data Quality Site Visits Review Recommendations. Furthermore, the lack of reliable information has been cited in a number of reports over the last 5 years, including (but not limited to):

- Review of Health & Social Care (Wanless Report)
- Designed for Life
- Spending by Design

Parc Cathays • Cathays Park  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ



**BUDDSODDWR MEWN POBL**  
**INVESTOR IN PEOPLE**

Ffôn • Tel: 029 2080 1182/1144  
GTN: 1208 1182/1144  
Ffacs • Fax: 029 2080 1160  
E-bost • E-mail: WilliamsP10@wales.gsi.gov.uk

These criticisms imply that the data are of insufficient quality to produce reliable information.

In order to help address issues of data quality across Wales, a Data Quality Improvement Project was established through the Corporate Health Information Programme (CHIP) in March 2007, which had the overall objective of raising the profile of data quality and implementing a revised approach with a view to securing demonstrable improvements.

Over the past two years, new data quality standards have been introduced for Admitted Patient Care (APC) activity data via WHC (2008) 007 and EH/ML/005/09. These have been crucial in helping to improve the quality of reported APC activity data across Wales.

In order to ensure similar principles are applied to other national data sets, a new set of data validity standards are to be introduced for EDDS data, effective 1 April 2010. These will check submitted EDDS data to ensure submitted data is provided in the agreed format and is populated with a nationally agreed value, as defined in the NHS Wales Data Dictionary.

It is firmly believed that the addition of these standards to those that already exist for APC activity data will improve the basis on which data quality performance is monitored across NHS Wales.

The proposals have been developed following consultation with the service, including all Local Health Boards, Trusts and end users of EDDS data.

The full set of EDDS Data Validity Standards are outlined in **Appendix A**.

For further detail, readers should refer to the 'Emergency Department Data Set – Data Validity Standards' report, which is available via the CHIP website at <http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/pmuw/chip> or by contacting the Corporate Health Information Programme on 029 2020 7606.

## **Actions Required**

Each Local Health Board and Trust is required to:

- Ensure all EDDS data submissions conform to the EDDS Data Validity Standards.
- Ensure the targets are achieved or exceeded for each standard outlined in Appendix A, taking appropriate corrective action when performance falls below the agreed criteria.
- Make use of the HSW Validation at Source Service (VASS) and any other local processes to improve the quality of the monthly EDDS data submissions, taking appropriate action where possible to correct incorrect data.

Health Solutions Wales (HSW) is required to:

- Ensure the continued functionality of Validation at Source Service (VASS) to allow Local Health Boards and Trusts to identify any data validity errors in their submitted EDDS data.
- Produce the EDDS Data Validity Performance Monitoring Report every month from 1 April 2010 onwards, to be made available on the Health of Wales Information Service (HOWIS) intranet.

### **Monitoring Arrangements**

Compliance with these standards will be monitored through a series of online data validity reports, which will be produced and maintained by Health Solutions Wales and made available on the Health of Wales Information Service (HOWIS) intranet.

A quarterly data quality report will be prepared by CHIP for the Welsh Assembly Government.

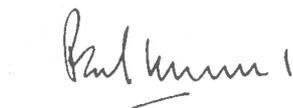
Any queries relating to the review and its recommendations should be directed to:

David Hawes – Data Quality Improvement Manager  
Corporate Health Information Programme  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor Churchill House  
Churchill Way  
Cardiff CF10 2HH

Tel: 029 2020 7606

E-Mail: [david.hawes@isd.wales.nhs.uk](mailto:david.hawes@isd.wales.nhs.uk)

Yours sincerely



### **Paul Williams**

**Cyfarwyddwr Cyffredinol, Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol**  
**Prif Weithredwr, GIG Cymru**  
**Director General, Health & Social Services**  
**Chief Executive, NHS Wales**

CC Simon Dean, Director of Strategy & Planning, HSSDG, WAG

## APPENDIX A – EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT DATA SET DATA VALIDITY STANDARDS

#	Data Item / Quality Indicator	Target (% Valid)
1	Accident and Emergency Investigation 1	95%
2	Accident and Emergency Principal Diagnosis Type 1	95%
3	Accident and Emergency Treatment 1	95%
4	Activity at Time of Injury	98%
5	Administrative Arrival Date	100% [L]
6	Administrative Arrival Time	100% [L]
7	Administrative End Date	98%
8	Administrative End Time	98%
9	Alcohol Indicator	98%
10	Anatomical Area 1	95%
12	Appropriateness of Attendance	98%
13	Arrival Mode	98%
14	Attendance Category	98%
15	Attendance Group	98%
16	Birth Date	98%
17	Ethnic Group	98%
18	GP Practice Code	98%
19	Health Event Date	98%
20	Health Event Time	98%
21	Injury Location Type	98%
22	Mechanism of Injury	98%
23	NHS Number	95%
24	NHS Number Status Indicator	95%
25	Organisation Code (Code of Provider)	100% [L]
26	Organisation Code (Local Health Board of Residence)	98%
27	Outcome of Attendance	98%
28	Postcode of Usual Address	98%
29	Referrer Code	98%
30	Referring Organisation Code	98%
31	Road User	98%
32	Sex	98%
33	Site Code (of Treatment)	98%
34	Source of Service Request	98%

#	Data Item / Quality Indicator	Target (% Valid)
35	Sport Activity	98%
36	Treatment End Date	98%
37	Treatment End Time	98%
38	Triage Category	98%

A data validity indicator will check whether submitted data is provided in the agreed format and is populated with a nationally-agreed value, as defined in the NHS Wales Data Dictionary.

\* The target refers to the percentage of patient records on the outpatient activity national database that should be correctly populated with an acceptable value for the associated data item at any point in time.

[L] indicates that the data item will also be classed as a Load Error within VASS. A Load Error is a distinct VASS check that detects key data integrity errors in submitted activity. The presence of a load error on a submitted record results in the rejection of the whole record from the data upload.