

Friday 21st February 2014

To: LHB Heads of Information Services
NHS Wales Critical Care Network Leads

CC: Director of Operations, Department of Health & Social Services, Welsh Government
Andrew Griffiths, Director – NHS Wales Informatics Service
Operational Services (Data Acquisition) Team, NHS Wales Informatics Service
Information Standards Team, NHS Wales Informatics Service

Dear Colleagues,

Critical Care Data Validity Standards

This letter formally mandates the introduction of the Critical Care Data Set (CC Ds) Data Validity Standards for NHS Wales.

Critical Care data are submitted monthly to the national database at the NHS Wales Informatics Service (NWIS) by Local Health Boards (LHBs). These data are used to support the planning and management of healthcare services through the ongoing monitoring of demand for, and provision of, critical care services at both a local and national level.

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. This programme is now being taken forward by the Data Quality Team within the Information Services Division, NWIS.

Since April 2008, a set of data validity standards have been developed and implemented for Admitted Patient Care, Outpatient Activity, Outpatient Referrals and Emergency Department datasets. These were designed to check submitted data to ensure that they were being provided in the agreed format and, where applicable, that they were populated with a nationally-agreed value as defined in the NHS Wales Data Dictionary¹. A similar set of standards is to be introduced for Critical Care Ds with effect from 1st March 2014.

To support the implementation of the Critical Care Ds prior to the introduction of these standards, NWIS has been producing an interim critical care data validity report, which is based on the existing Validation At Source Service (VASS) checks and is produced on a monthly basis following the submission and processing of LHB extracts of critical care data. In introducing the new Critical Care data validity and consistency standards the logic underpinning these existing checks was also reviewed and updated.

In developing the new indicators, NWIS consulted with NHS Wales organisations and a range of other stakeholders. These were widely accepted as a mechanism for improving the data quality of the dataset. Performance against the standards will be monitored using a new monthly Data Validity Performance Monitoring Reports, similar to the reports currently

¹ <http://nww.datadictionary.wales.nhs.uk/>

used to monitor the other aforementioned datasets. Targets for these measures will all be set at 98% except NHS Number which will be 95% to align with other datasets and relevant national (UK) standards.

Performance against the standards will be published on the NWIS Data Quality website, which can be accessed via the following link, from April 2014:

<http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/dataquality>

The full set of data load and validity checks are listed in [Appendix A](#).

To enable LHBs to monitor the data quality of their own submissions to the NHS Wales Data Switching Service (NWDSS), the new and amended checks will be incorporated into VASS on 1st March 2014 in time for the submission of February data, which is due by 11th March 2014. In order for these updates to take effect, the live VASS system for Critical Care Ds will be taken offline temporarily from Monday 24th to Friday 28th February. The data upload facility for the Critical Care Ds will be unavailable during this period.

To further enhance these data quality checks, a set of data consistency standards are also to be introduced for Critical Care Ds data. These will check submitted data to ensure *related* data items for the same patient are consistent with one another. The introduction of a broader set of data quality standards and an updated set of tools to monitor the quality of the data is in response to the increasing requirement for accurate and robust critical care data. These standards are to be implemented during the next phase of the project, currently scheduled for mid-2014.

Should you have any queries, please contact David Hawes, Information Standards Manager, NWIS on 029 2050 2571 or via email – david.hawes@wales.nhs.uk.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim O'Sullivan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underlining the name.

Tim O'Sullivan
Head of Information
NHS Wales Informatics Service

CHANGES TO CRITICAL CARE VALIDATION AT SOURCE SERVICE CHECKS

The following tables outline the new, and changes to existing, data validity checks.

Full descriptions and the underpinning SQL logic of each of these checks can be found on the VASS website:

<http://nwdss.hsw.wales.nhs.uk/NwdssMerge/VASS/>

NEW VASS CHECKS

VASS #	VAS Check Description	Check Type	Required Changes in VAS
59121	Invalid Administrative Category	Data Validity Check	New checks to be created
59122	Invalid Advanced Respiratory Support Days	Data Validity Check	
59123	Invalid Basic Respiratory Support Days	Data Validity Check	
59124	Invalid Critical Care Discharge Ready Time	Data Validity Check	
59125	Invalid Critical Care Discharge Time	Data Validity Check	
59126	Invalid Critical Care Start Time	Data Validity Check	
59127	Invalid Dermatological Support Days	Data Validity Check	
59128	Invalid Ethnic Group	Data Validity Check	
59129	Invalid Gastro-Intestinal Support Days	Data Validity Check	
59130	Invalid Liver Support Days	Data Validity Check	
59131	Invalid Neurological Support Days	Data Validity Check	
59132	Invalid Organ Support Maximum	Data Validity Check	
59133	Invalid Renal Support Days	Data Validity Check	

AMENDED VASS CHECKS

VASS #	Current VAS Check Description	New VAS Check Description	Check Type	Required Changes in VAS
59000	Invalid Record ID	Invalid Record ID	Data Load Check	Update description only
59001	Invalid Provider Code	Invalid Organisation Code (Code of Provider)	Data Load Check	Update name and description
59002	Invalid CRN	Invalid Case Record Number	Data Load Check	Update name and description
59003	Invalid CCare Local Identifier	Invalid Critical Care Local Identifier	Data Load Check	Update name and description
59004	Invalid Start Date	Invalid Critical Care Start Date	Data Load Check	Update name and description
59005	Duplicate Record	Duplicate Record	Data Load Check	Update description only
59006	No Record to Amend	No Record to Amend	Data Load Check	Update description only
59007	Record Being Deleted does not Exist	Record Being Deleted does not Exist	Data Load Check	Update description only
59010	Provider Code Not Active	Organisation Code Not Active	Data Load Check	Update name and description
59090	More than one bulk delete record	More than one Bulk Delete Header Record	Data Load Check	Update name and description
59091	Invalid start date in bulk header delete	Invalid Start Date in Bulk Delete Header Record	Data Load Check	Update name and description
59092	Invalid end date in bulk delete header	Invalid End Date in Bulk Delete Header Record	Data Load Check	Update name and description
59093	End date before start date in bulk header delete	End Date before Start Date in Bulk Delete Header Record	Data Load Check	Update name and description
59094	Invalid account code in bulk header delete	Invalid Account Code in Bulk Delete Header Record	Data Load Check	Update name and description
59095	Bulk header delete not first record	Bulk Delete Header Record not first record	Data Load Check	Update name and description
59100	Invalid NHS Number	Invalid NHS Number	Data Validity Check	No changes required
59101	Invalid or Inactive Postcodes	Invalid or Inactive Postcode of Usual Address	Data Validity Check	Update name and description
59102	Invalid Sex Code	Invalid Sex Code	Data Validity Check	Update description only
59103	Invalid Site Code of Treatment	Invalid Site Code (of Treatment)	Data Validity Check	Update name and description
59104	Invalid Treatment Function Code	Invalid Treatment Function Code	Data Validity Check	Update description only
59105	Invalid Admission Source	Invalid Critical Care Admission Source	Data Validity Check	Update name and description
59106	Invalid Source Location	Invalid Critical Care Source Location	Data Validity Check	Update name and description
59107	Invalid Admission Type	Invalid Critical Care Admission Type	Data Validity Check	Update name and description
59108	Invalid / Inactive GP Practice Code	Invalid / Inactive Code of Registered GP Practice	Data Validity Check	Update name and description
59109	Invalid Spell ID	Invalid Hospital Provider Spell Number	Data Validity Check	Update name and description
59110	Invalid Unit Function Code	Invalid Critical Care Unit Function	Data Validity Check	Update name and description
59111	Invalid Unit Bed Configuration	Invalid Unit Bed Configuration	Data Validity Check	Update description only
59112	Invalid Discharge Date	Invalid Critical Care Discharge Date	Data Validity Check	Update name, description and SQL script
59113	Invalid Discharge Ready Date	Invalid Critical Care Discharge Ready Date	Data Validity Check	Update name and description
59114	Invalid Discharge Status	Invalid Critical Care Discharge Status	Data Validity Check	Update name and description
59115	Invalid Discharge Destination	Invalid Critical Care Discharge Destination	Data Validity Check	Update name and description
59116	Invalid Discharge Location	Invalid Critical Care Discharge Location	Data Validity Check	Update name and description
59117	Invalid Level 2 days	Invalid Critical Care Level 2 Days	Data Validity Check	Update name and description
59118	Invalid Level 3 Days	Invalid Critical Care Level 3 Days	Data Validity Check	Update name and description
59119	Invalid Deaths and Discharge Date	N/A	Data Validity Check	Remove – this will be covered by a new Data Consistency Check
59120	Invalid Date of Birth	Invalid Date of Birth	Data Validity Check	Update description and SQL script