

1st February 2016

VASS checks 51610 (OP) and 20925 (EDDS) amended
'Inconsistent Postcode of Usual Address / Organisation Code (LHB Area of Residence)

Amendment to the logic for Scottish residents

The logic for these checks (and associated data quality measures) is that if the submitted LHB Area of Residence is not the NHS organisation within which the submitted postcode is situated, the record will be flagged as inconsistent, e.g. a record submitted with a Hywel Dda postcode and an LHB Area of Residence code representing Betsi Cadwaladr.

However it was found that these checks were marking records as inconsistent in both OP and EDDS for all Scottish residents, regardless of their postcode.

The NHS Postcode Directory associates each UK postcode with the NHS organisation within which that postcode is situated. In Wales, those NHS organisations are Local Health Boards, while for other parts of the UK the relevant organisations are

- in England, Clinical Commissioning Groups;
- in Northern Ireland, Local Commissioning Groups; and
- in Scotland, Health Boards.

Prior to April 2015, Scotland also had Community Health Partnerships that reported to their respective Health Boards. The logic behind these checks, for Scottish residents, was previously to check that the submitted LHB Area of Residence was the code representing the Community Health Partnership associated with that patient's postcode.

It has now been recognised that the value submitted for LHB Area of Residence for a patient resident in Scotland should be a Health Board rather than a Community Health Partnership. Therefore, the logic behind the checks has been changed to check that the submitted LHB Area of Residence is the code representing the Health Board associated with that patient's postcode.

For non-Scottish residents, these checks remain unchanged.

Note: The associated VASS check for APC (50607) was unaffected as it already uses the Health Board for Scottish residents.