

Data Coordination Board

Information Standards Notice – Change

Acting under delegated authority from the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, the Data Coordination Board (DCB) has approved a change to an existing information standard for publication under section 250 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

You must comply with the change to this standard by the full conformance date specified below.

Standard details	
DCB unique identifier	DCB0084 Amd 18/2019
Name	OPCS Classification of Interventions and Procedures Version 4.9
Approval date	27 September 2019
Publication date	8 October 2019
Standard definition	
Description	<p>OPCS-4 is a statistical classification for clinical coding of hospital interventions and procedures undertaken by the NHS. The classification is mandatory for use by healthcare providers to support various forms of data collections for secondary uses.</p> <p>The classification comprises a list of alphanumeric codes organised into mainly anatomically based chapters. It is available to download as an eVersion and will be available online using the NHS Digital Classifications Browser. It is also published as a book set (Tabular List and Index) by The Stationery Office (TSO) for purchase by users.</p> <p>The Terminology and Classifications Delivery Service within NHS Digital has responsibility for the support, maintenance, development and licensing of the OPCS-4 which is governed by Crown Copyright.</p>
About this change	<p>This release introduces several changes to the standard as part of the regular review and uplift of OPCS-4 every 3 years to reflect current NHS clinical practice to support aggregate data for statistical purposes and reimbursement.</p> <p>All changes in this release are within existing chapters of the standard and there is no change to the architecture of OPCS-4. The changes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 28 new 3-character category codes and changes to 66 3-character category codes• 223 new 4-character subcategory codes, changes to 116 4-character subcategory codes and the retirement of 5 4-character subcategory codes• 352 new index entries and 43 deleted index entries.

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Scope (Health and Social Care Act 2012)	NHS Services
Applies to	All providers of NHS funded hospital services
Impacts upon	Implementation of this information standard impacts all health IT systems suppliers providing systems to the above providers; suppliers should work with their customers to determine necessary changes.
Legal authority	This information standard is published under section 250 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.
Link to further documentation	The Change Specification, Requirements Specification and Implementation Guidance are available on the NHS Digital website: www.digital.nhs.uk/isce/publication/dcb0084 Further guidance is published by NHS Digital
Contacts	
Sponsor	Ian Townend, Lead Architect, Interoperability and Architecture, NHSX
SRO	Tom Denwood, Executive Director of Data, Insights and Statistics, NHS Digital
Business Lead	Lynn Bracewell, Head of Terminology and Classifications Delivery Service, NHS Digital
Help Desk	information.standards@nhs.net
Dates	
Implementation and conformance dates	All systems must be able to use OPCS 4.9 with immediate effect from 1 April 2020.
Post Implementation Review date	1 April 2021

The controlled version of this Information Standards Notice is published on the NHS Digital website: www.digital.nhs.uk/isce/publication/isns