

DCB0084: OPCS-4.9 Requirements Specification

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Information and technology
for better health and care

Data Coordination Board

This information standard (DCB0084) has been approved for publication by the Department of Health and Social Care under [section 250 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012](#).

Assurance that this information standard meets the requirements of the Act and is appropriate for the use specified in the specification document has been provided by the Data Coordination Board (DCB), a sub-group of the Digital Delivery Board.

This information standard comprises the following documents:

- Requirements Specification
- Implementation Guidance
- Change Specification.

An Information Standards Notice (DCB0084 Amd 18/2019) has been issued as a notification of use and implementation timescales. Please read this alongside the documents for the standard.

The controlled versions of these documents can be found on the [NHS Digital website](#). Any copies held outside of that area, in whatever format (e.g. paper, email attachment), are considered to have passed out of control and should be checked for currency and validity.

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Glossary of Terms

Term / Abbreviation	What it stands for/description
T&CDS	Terminology and Classifications Delivery Service, part of NHS Digital
CDS	Commissioning Data Sets
DCB	Data Coordination Board
Delen	Terminology and Classifications Delivery Service's collaboration and sharing site
DHSC	Department of Health and Social Care
HRG	Healthcare Resource Groups
ICD-10	International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems - Tenth Revision
National Tariff Payment System	A set of prices and rules to help local NHS providers and commissioners provide best value to their patients produced by NHS England and NHS Improvement.
NCO	National Casemix Office, part of NHS Digital
NHS Digital	Provides national information, data and IT systems for health and care services, previously The Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC)
SUS	Secondary Uses Service
TRUD	Technology Reference data Update Distribution Service
TSO	The Stationery Office

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Overview

This document describes the standard and provides the requirements and conformance criteria to test that the product, system or service complies with the requirements to support the local implementation of the OPCS Classification of Interventions and Procedures, Version 4.9, also known as OPCS-4.9.

This update to the standard is a continuance of the regular review and uplift of OPCS-4 in line with the recommended best practice of keeping clinical classifications aligned with advances in health care.

Summary of the standard

This table below contains a summary of the information standard:

Standard	
DCB unique identifier	DCB0084 Amd 18/2019
Title	OPCS Classification of Interventions and Procedures Version 4.9
Description	<p>The OPCS-4 Classification of Interventions and Procedures (OPCS-4) is an NHS fundamental information standard published under section 250 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 (Ref DCB0084). OPCS-4 is updated every 3 years to reflect current NHS clinical practice to support aggregate data for statistical purposes and reimbursement.</p> <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 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 (T&CDS) has responsibility for the support, maintenance, development, and licensing of the OPCS-4 which is governed by Crown Copyright.</p>
Applies to	<p>All Health Care Providers that are required to submit data on interventions and procedures for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Admitted Patient Care Commissioning Data Sets (CDS) Other data collections as defined in the NHS Data Model and Dictionary. <p>Implementation of the change to this information standard impacts all health IT systems suppliers providing systems to the above providers; such providers should work with their suppliers to determine necessary changes.</p>

Release	
Release title	OPCS Classification of Interventions and Procedures Version 4.9 (OPCS-4.9)
Description	OPCS-4.9 is released by the NHS Digital Terminology and Classifications Delivery Service and contains updates submitted by the NHS, NHS Digital, DHSC, NHS England and NHS Improvement and other organisations via the OPCS-4 Requests Portal.
Implementation Completion date	1 April 2020

Related documents

Ref #	Title
1	OPCS-4.9 Information Standards Notice
2	OPCS-4.9 NHS Data Model and Dictionary Change Request
3	Summary of Changes from OPCS-4.8 to OPCS-4.9
4	OPCS-4.9 Implementation guidance
5	OPCS-4.9 Change Specification

Supporting information

Ref #	Title
1	OPCS-4.9 Metadata File Technical Specification with associated Technical Specification
2	National Clinical Coding Standards – OPCS-4.9 reference book

Related Standards

Ref #	Reference	Title
1	SCCI0021	ICD-10 5th Edition
2	SCCI0034	SNOMED CT
3	DCB0160	Clinical Risk Management: its Application in the Deployment and Use of Health IT Systems
4	DCB0129	Clinical Risk Management: its Application in the Manufacture of Health IT Systems

Background

The OPCS-4 is a classification of surgical procedures and interventions. OPCS-4, along with ICD-10, is the UK standard for the coding of admitted patient care clinical data and, taken together, their use is fundamental to the production of statistical data by the four national administrations in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

This fundamental NHS Information Standard is maintained and published by the Terminology and Classifications Delivery Service.

OPCS-4 enables interventions and surgical procedures performed on patients to be coded consistently for use in analyses. When OPCS-4 codes are linked to other data items, such as procedure date, commissioner and provider of health care services, diagnoses via ICD-10, consultant code and patient's postcode, they become a powerful tool for managing and improving the care of persons and populations. Listed below are just a few of the applications:

- National reporting requirements as specified in the NHS Data Model and Dictionary, for example the Admitted Patient Care Commissioning Data Set (CDS)
- Epidemiology/public health
- Clinical governance
- Commissioning/reimbursement/Healthcare Resource Groups
- Clinical audit
- Performance improvement
- Operational and strategic planning for health care delivery.

The OPCS-4 is used by NHS suppliers to build/update software to support NHS business functions and interoperability.

Strategic fit and business justification

In England the OPCS-4 classification is an approved NHS Fundamental Information Standard for mandatory use by healthcare providers. The requirement to provide classification data for admitted patient care is mandatory and part of the NHS contracts.

NHS Digital National Casemix Office (NCO)

The NCO uses OPCS-4 (and ICD-10) in the design of Healthcare Resource Groups (HRGs). The [National Casemix Office Design Framework 2012-2017](#) shows that Classifications, and specifically OPCS-4, continues to be the backbone of HRGs.

However, OPCS-4 needs to continue to evolve so that HRGs can reflect:

- surgery that utilises new devices and innovative clinical approaches and procedures
- multiple procedures undertaken at the same time
- more complex care.

National Tariff Payment System

NHS England and NHS Improvement use the National Tariff to set national prices and to establish the rules that commissioners and providers must use to deliver the most efficient, cost effective care to patients.

The Classifications are an integral part of the National Tariff; The '2019/20 National Tariff Payment System' page 12 states 'Clinical classification systems describe information from patient records with standardised definitions and nomenclature. The 2019/20 NTPS relies largely on two standard classifications to record clinical data for admitted patients. These are:

- The World Health Organization International Classification of Diseases, 10th revision (ICD-10) for diagnoses
- Office of Population Censuses and Surveys 4 (OPCS-4) for operations, procedures and interventions.

OPCS-4 and ICD-10 underpin the National Tariff. Both classifications need to be kept up to date to reflect clinical practice and to satisfy the requirements articulated in government policy.

Other use cases

Some of the other initiatives that use OPCS-4 are outlined below:

- The Information Standard is used across the UK for submissions of aggregated information to national database collections for statistical and epidemiological analyses. OPCS-4 is a vital component of national datasets such as Hospital Episodes Statistics (HES) in England, Patient Episode Data for Wales (PEDW), Scottish Morbidity Records (SMR).
- The Information Standard is used by the Department of Health and Social Care as part of the public scrutiny of NHS services.
- It is used to audit or assess NHS organisations on an ongoing basis by NHS Improvement and the Care Quality Commission.

Details of the standard

OPCS-4 is used to classify hospital interventions and surgical procedures to support various data collection for operational and secondary uses. It permits the systematic analysis, interpretation, and comparison of interventions and procedures performed in the NHS.

It is mandatory for Admitted Patient Care Commissioning Data Sets (CDS).

OPCS-4 contains an exhaustive set of mutually exclusive categories to aggregate data for hospital interventions and surgical procedures. It provides a system for the ordering and hierarchical grouping of concepts for statistical purposes. The grouping of concepts is driven by a purpose for which the classification is designed. OPCS-4 has residual classes ('other specified and unspecified') to ensure that all cases can be classified; thus, they can accommodate new or unanticipated things encountered in a domain. Classifications also include index-terms and rules that guide users to the required concept.

The classification comprises a list of alphanumeric codes within mainly anatomically based chapters, most of which relate to the whole or part of a body system. Each chapter is designated alphabetically e.g. Chapter A covers the nervous system and Chapter K is assigned to the heart. The alphabetic character for each chapter forms the prefix of the three-character category and four-character codes within it.

Capacity issues mean that the hierarchical body system structure is no longer enforceable, so strict use of the Alphabetical Index and Tabular List notes is imperative to ensure accuracy.

New 3-character categories are placed within chapter ranges, and 4-character codes are added to existing categories where space allows. Alternatively, new codes are placed at the end of the specific body system chapter. For example, categories **H01** to **H03** are operations on the appendix, whereas category **H04** relates to operations on the colon and rectum. Therefore, if there is a requirement for a specific operation on the appendix to be included in OPCS-4, and no room exists within the categories (**H01-H03**), the code will be placed in the most suitable available space, typically at the end of the chapter.

There are also instances where an existing full category needs extension. In such cases, and dependent on the chapter capacity, an extended category has been added within the chapter. These categories are referred to as principal category or extended category and are identified by an accompanying note within the classification to ease navigation. In addition; notes are added to the Table of Coding Equivalence file to identify principal and extended categories to aid analysts.

OPCS-4 is accessible electronically by downloading the eViewer and will be available online using the Classifications Browser.

OPCS-4 is also published as a two-volume set:

- Volume I is the Tabular list, comprising a descriptive classification of interventions and procedures
- Volume II contains Alphabetical Indices of interventions and procedures

Electronic data files (which include the Tables of Coding Equivalence, Metadata file, Codes and Titles file and specifications) are issued via [TRUD](#) to support implementation in systems.

Concept of Operation

The standard for OPCS-4 turns textual statements about a patient's treatment into classification codes, for example, unspecified emergency appendicectomy is coded to **H01.9**.

Implementers, such as system suppliers contracted by trusts or trust in-house IT support services, download the OPCS-4 Codes and Titles and Metadata files from the [TRUD Service](#).

The OPCS-4 files are installed on patient administration systems or other hospital information systems. They are used to validate the codes assigned by clinical coders to the procedures and interventions documented in the patient medical record by a clinician. The clinical coders work from paperback copies of the classifications, eVersions, Classifications Browser or commercial encoders. They interrogate various modules of the Electronic Patient Record system or use paper case notes to access the relevant patient information. The coded information is stored in hospital Information systems and is extracted, as part of the Commissioning Data Set, at regular intervals and submitted to the Secondary Uses Service.

More information about the processing of Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) which includes OPCS-4 and ICD-10 data can be found [here](#).

Clinical coders are trained to assign OPCS-4 codes according to the rules of the classification and national clinical coding standards.

OPCS-4 may also be used by other staff depending on local operational requirements.

Where there are SNOMED CT enabled electronic patient record systems in place, operations will be captured in SNOMED CT and mapped to OPCS-4. The NHS Digital

Terminology and Classifications Delivery Service provides the national maps from SNOMED CT to the classifications (ICD-10 and OPCS-4). The maps make it easier to use these standards together and support interoperability across the health system. The maps support the standard and are distributed as part of the regular terminology releases to appropriately licensed NHS suppliers and other users via TRUD.

The maps adhere to the national clinical coding standards and guidance. The application of the national standards, as part of the mapping process, is pivotal to users of SNOMED CT in order to meet the mandatory requirement to provide consultant episodes coded to the OPCS-4 and ICD-10 standards.

Data analysts and financial accountants within trusts, the National Casemix Office, Department of Health and Social Care (DH) performance analysts/statisticians, Public Health England and audit organisations use the codes to support operational and strategic planning, epidemiology, performance indicators, health care commissioning and producing various statistical outputs. Clinicians may use the codes to support medical audit and research.

The OPCS-4 Tables of Coding Equivalences (ToCE), supplied via [TRUD](#), provide analysts with a guide to the codes that should have been used for interventions and procedures in previous versions. The vast majority of codes are not affected by the new updates.

Each maintenance release is supported by updated electronic OPCS-4 data files, updated books, eVersion, Classifications Browser, clinical coding standards, and implementation guidance. Classroom training is provided, if warranted, by the degree of change.

Trusts, their system suppliers and staff, are familiar with the change process, having implemented regular updates since 2006.

Out of scope

The following are items outside the scope of this standard:

- Conditions recorded by the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems – Tenth Revision, known as ICD-10.
- Point of care recording systems – OPCS-4 is not intended or designed for point of care recording by a clinician. It is a statistical tool that requires adherence to and application of specified definitions and rules to enable accurate, consistent and comprehensive capture of data for secondary purposes. SNOMED CT enabled electronic health records incorporate national maps to the classifications to support the derivation of classification data for secondary use purposes.
- Mappings - these provide the link from the SNOMED CT terminology (used for point of care recording by clinicians) to OPCS-4.
- Administrative or demographic data.
- Procedures typically undertaken in General Practice for example prescribing, practice administration, General Medical Services (GMS) or Personal Medical Services (PMS) contracts.
- Allied Healthcare Professions activities.
- Healthcare Resource Groups (HRGs) - these are standard groupings of clinically similar treatment which use common levels of healthcare resource. They are used as the unit of currency to determine fair and equitable reimbursement for care services delivered by providers. The NHS Digital National Casemix Office is responsible for the mapping of OPCS-4 codes to HRGs for use in associated groupers. The OPCS-4

update will be incorporated into HRGs to ensure the codes are accepted in the grouper(s) to be used from April 2020 onwards.

Data Sets (excluding Commissioning Data Sets)

Where OPCS-4 is used in data sets, for example, cancer and radiotherapy, OPCS-4.9 - the mandated version - must be used from 1 April 2020.

Important Note: Updates to the classifications and coding standards are implemented at the start of the fiscal year, i.e. 1 April, rather than potentially taking place at any point throughout the fiscal year, for example, 1 January. Having a regular fixed point for changes enables analysts to extract meaningful statistics for local/national purposes, including time series data and the NHS payment system data.

Training and education

The benefits to be gained from the OPCS-4 updates depend upon:

- clear, concise and accurate clinical information provided within current source documentation for the episode of care
- accurate, consistent and complete application of the classification to reflect the procedures detailed in the clinical record.

Health care providers need to ensure that those staff groups affected by the updates are aware of the OPCS-4 implementation and the mandatory requirement for all consultant episodes and day cases that finish on or after 1 April 2020 to be recorded to OPCS-4.9.

Those responsible for clinical coding in trusts are encouraged to arrange awareness sessions. Targeted training sessions benefit those groups of staff and specialties most impacted by the updates. This includes clinical, information, finance and other staff groups that provide information (in the case of clinicians) or use the data to support mandatory data collections as well as local service planning and patient care delivery.

To facilitate awareness sessions, the Terminology and Classifications Delivery Service has developed the summary of changes, key learning points and a PowerPoint slide deck with associated Exercise and Answer Booklet so that approved clinical coding trainers and clinical coding managers can use or adapt to meet the local needs of their various staff groups. A recording will also be made available on Delen.

Clinical coding managers need to ensure that clinical coding staff receive adequate training so that the updates can be accurately and consistently applied as part of the coding process. The type of training required will depend on local circumstances.

The Terminology and Classifications Delivery Service provides national reference and training materials to support the coding community as follows:

- **The OPCS-4 National Clinical Coding Standards reference book** for clinical coders is updated to reflect changes made to OPCS-4. The reference book contains the national clinical coding standards, rules and conventions pertaining to OPCS-4. The updates to OPCS-4 do not change the fundamental Four Step Coding Process.
- **Awareness materials** are provided to support the coding community, as necessary.
- **A range of national clinical coding training materials** are provided to ensure well-defined standards and to improve the quality of clinical data coded to ICD-10 and OPCS-4. All existing materials are updated to reflect enhancements to the classifications. A train-the-trainer programme, operated by the T&CDS, creates a body of clinical coding trainers skilled in using the national training materials. This

ensures consistent delivery and dissemination of national clinical coding standards and subsequently consistent and accurate data.

- **Key Learning Points** outlining the main changes/key differences are published on the Terminology and Classifications Delivery Service website to prepare the coding community for the implementation of OPCS-4.

National Clinical Coding Qualification (UK)

The examination to accredit clinical coders is delivered by the Institute of Health Records and Information Management (IHRIM) - the awarding and administrative body. Examinations are held in September and March in every financial year. The syllabus covers coding standards for ICD-10 and OPCS-4. Examinations are based on the mandated classification at the time of the examination.

Data Quality

The national clinical coding audit methodology and associated auditor workshop will be updated where appropriate to reflect changes to the classifications. The methodology describes a framework for audit of coded clinical data in ICD-10 and OPCS-4. It enables auditors to have confidence in their findings, provides the necessary information to make relevant changes and achieves continuous quality improvement, resulting in a robust data quality cycle. The methodology and audit requirement are part of the DCB0086 Data Security and Protection Toolkit (DSPT).

Clinical Safety

The OPCS-4 does not use patient identifiable data or affect patient safety in itself. However, the data generated from coding activity provides a rich source of information and when utilised with other parameters, it can contribute to the identification of cohorts of patients for more detailed analysis.

Should a local organisation use classification data for clinical purposes such as clinical audit, or transfer clinical coding as part of inter-provider transfer of care, the organisation should follow clinical safety standards:

- DCB0160 Clinical Risk Management: its Application in the Deployment and Use of Health IT Systems
- DCB0129 Clinical Risk Management: its Application in the Manufacture of Health IT Systems

There are no known adverse events to date. The change should not alter this position.

In the event of an adverse incident this would be logged with the Information Standards helpdesk and tracked for either resolution or escalation as part of the Service Level Agreement for incident management. If an incident arose involving NHS Digital data files due process would be activated. Where information is known to be used inappropriately, the Terminology and Classifications Delivery Service would approach the organisation about the incident and seek a satisfactory resolution. If further action is required, it may necessitate the matter being referred depending on the severity.

Requirements for Health Care Providers

High quality relevant data is a key commissioning tool. The requirements set out below will help organisations to meet data quality requirements to support their business and deliver better care to patients.

#	Requirements ¹
1	All consultant episodes and day cases that contain interventions/operations MUST be recorded to OPCS-4.9 on or after 1 April 2020 (see # 6 below) and until further notice to support mandatory data collections including Admitted Patient Care Commissioning Data Sets (CDS), other Central Returns and data collections as detailed in the NHS Data Model and Dictionary (http://www.datadictionary.nhs.uk).
2	All Health Care Providers that are required to submit interventions/operations for Admitted Patient Care Commissioning Data Sets (CDS), Central Returns for secondary uses as well as a number of other data collections as defined in the NHS Data Model and Dictionary MUST implement the updates in readiness for implementation on 1 April 2020.
3	Health Care Providers MUST implement OPCS-4.9 data files for 1 April 2020 as described in the OPCS-4 Metadata file specification available via the Technology Reference data Update Distribution Service (TRUD).
4	Health Care Providers MUST use the OPCS-4.9 classification and associated classification coding standards available in the National Clinical Coding Standards OPCS-4.9 reference book.
5	Health Care Providers MUST conform to the “output” specification as provided in the NHS Data Model and Dictionary . See Appendix 1 for list of data set flows.
6	Health Care Providers MUST apply OPCS-4.9 to all applicable Consultant Episodes that finish on or after 1 April 2020.
7	Health Care Provider Systems MUST support the clinical coding of consultant episodes in OPCS-4.8 and OPCS-4.9 as part of the transition to the updated classification. See Requirements for NHS IT Systems : rows three and four for details of transition.
8	Health Care Providers SHOULD retain reference copies of all previous versions of OPCS-4.
9	Health Care Providers MUST continue to abide by the guidance that regulates the submission of Commissioning Data Sets (CDS) to Secondary Uses Service (SUS).
10	Health Care Providers SHOULD conform to DCB0160 Clinical Risk Management: its Application in the Deployment and Use of Health IT Systems and DCB0129 Clinical Risk Management: its Application in the Manufacture of Health IT Systems , if implementing OPCS-4.9 requires a new release of your software.

¹ The key words MUST, SHOULD and MAY are defined in the information standards development methodology. They follow [RFC-2119](#).

11	Health Care Providers MUST comply with the Licence Agreement which is available on TRUD (Technology Reference data Update Distribution).
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Requirements for NHS IT Systems

#	Requirements
1	NHS IT systems/software MUST use the data files and associated specifications released via TRUD to support the requirements listed below.
2	All systems that use OPCS-4 codes to support Admitted Patient Care Commissioning Data Sets (CDS), Central Returns for secondary uses as well as a number of other data collections as defined in the NHS Data Model and Dictionary and listed at Appendix 1 MUST be updated to OPCS-4.9 in line with the implementation date of 1 April 2020.
3	Systems MUST support the coding of consultant episodes finishing on or after 1 April 2020 in OPCS-4.9.
4	Systems MUST support the coding of consultant episodes finishing on or before 31 March 2020 in OPCS-4.8 or earlier versions as appropriate.
5	Where a Hospital Provider Spell contains episodes before and after 01/04/20 the system MUST be able to support the use of both versions – OPCS-4.8 for episodes that end before 1/4/2020, and OPCS-4.9 for episodes that end on or after that date.
6	System outputs MUST continue to abide by the guidance that regulates the submission of Commissioning Data Sets (CDS) to Secondary Uses Service (SUS).
7	IT systems that support SNOMED CT enabled sites MUST use the April 2020 Terminology Release Cross-maps, issued in mid-March 2020 via TRUD (Technology Reference data Update Distribution) to support the above requirements.
8	Information systems MUST have integrity checks and validations to support data accuracy. Validation failures will be reported by the system in order to check for the entry of an incorrect OPCS-4 code or the display of an incorrect patient record. It is envisaged that checks will be performed via the User Interface or other methods appropriate to locally agreed clinical coding practice which ensures data integrity and compliance. See OPCS-4.9 Metadata file specification, available via TRUD , for information on integrity checks and validations.
9	IT systems SHOULD conform to DCB0160 Clinical Risk Management: its Application in the Deployment and Use of Health IT Systems and DCB0129 Clinical Risk Management: its Application in the Manufacture of Health IT Systems , if implementing OPCS-4.9 requires a new release of your software.
10	Users of OPCS-4 MUST comply with the Licence Agreement which is available on TRUD (Technology Reference data Update Distribution).

Conformance Criteria for Systems

#	Conformance	Yes/No
1	The OPCS-4.9 electronic data files exist on systems that are used to support consultant episodes, day cases and other data sets specified in the NHS Data Model and Dictionary that require the recording of hospital interventions and procedures from 1 April 2020 and until further notice.	
2	The OPCS-4.8 to OPCS-4.9 code changes listed in the Summary of Changes* document have been implemented and are available to the clinical coding function to code the relevant procedures present in the patient medical record. *The Summary of Changes from OPCS-4.8 to OPCS-4.9 is also issued in the OPCS-4.9 TRUD pack and on Delen and lists new, retired and changed codes.	
3	Codes and descriptions new to OPCS-4.9 <u>are present</u> in the 2020/2021 (and until further notice) Commissioning Data Sets (CDSs) and central returns where the applicable operations exist in the patient medical record.	
4c	Codes and descriptions new to OPCS-4.9 are <u>not present</u> in the 2019/2020 Commissioning Data Sets (CDSs) and central returns.	
5	Systems permit coding to OPCS-4.8 and OPCS-4.9 to support the transition to the updated classification.	
6	Where a Hospital Provider Spell contains episodes before and after 01/04/20 the system supports the use of both versions as expressed in the requirements.	
7	The OPCS-4 codes residing within the Hospital Information System are valid for the relevant year(s), for example, OPCS-4.6 in use at 1 April 2011 – 31 March 2014.	
8	Clinical Coding systems disallow the use of retired codes after the date of retirement. The codes will continue to be available for coding and analyses of data collected before date of retirement.	
9	Data coded to OPCS-4.9 conforms to the metadata parameters as specified in the OPCS-4.9 Metadata file specification available via TRUD.	
10	CDS data continues to flow to SUS without any debasement of content.	
11	OPCS-4.9 is available from implementation date (see above) until further notice.	
12	Patient data coded to OPCS-4.8 and previous versions SHOULD	

	continue to be available for analyses.	
13	OPCS-4.9 codes derived from the terminology cross-maps conform to the above conditions, where applicable.	
14	OPCS-4.9 codes, assigned by classification encoders, conform to the above conditions, where applicable.	
15	Patient Information Systems conform to the classification definitions provided in the NHS Data Model and Dictionary.	

Conformance Criteria for Users

#	Conformance	Yes/No
1	Clinical coders are familiar with the changes in OPCS-4.9, and have attended training courses where provided, before using the new version.	
2	Clinical coders are aware of the changes that affect their specialties and have liaised with clinicians, as necessary.	
3	Clinical coders are using OPCS-4.9 for the coding of all Consultant Episodes (Hospital Provider) that finish on or after 1 April 2020.	
4	Clinical coders have informed senior management where their clinical coding applications have not been updated to OPCS-4.9.	
5	Clinical coders are using the latest National Clinical Coding Standards OPCS-4.9 reference book for the coding of all Consultant Episodes (Hospital Provider) that finish on or after 1 April 2020.	
6	NHS Digital Clinical Classifications Service Approved – NHS and Commercial Clinical Coding Trainers are using the updated national clinical coding courses and/or have developed/updated their in-house courses in line with the documentation supplied by the Terminology and Classifications Delivery Service.	
7	NHS Digital Terminology and Classifications Delivery Service Approved – NHS and Commercial Clinical Coding Auditors use OPCS-4.9 when undertaking data quality inspections of all Consultant Episodes (Hospital Provider) that finish on or after 1 April 2020.	
8	Analysts/statisticians use the Table of Coding Equivalences (ToCE), available in the OPCS-4.9 TRUD pack, for longitudinal analysis for data coded to previous versions of OPCS-4	
9	All OPCS-4 users MUST familiarise themselves with OPCS-4.9 and assess the impact on their work.	

Conformance criteria for Terminology and Classifications Delivery Service

This section describes the tests to be performed to indicate that the information standard is supported by the NHS Digital Terminology and Classifications Delivery Service.

#	Conformance
1	Notification of change to the standard issued to users and stakeholders in the Terminology and Classifications Delivery Service Newsletter before end of April 2019.
2	Summary of changes between OPCS-4.8 and OPCS-4.9 published in line with the schedule provided in the notification bulletin.
3	SUS to be made aware of additions /amendments to the list of Anonymous and Legally Restricted Codes, as necessary.
4	OPCS-4.9 Information Standards Notice published by end October 2019.
5	Key learning points published to the schedule provided in the Notification.
6	OPCS-4.9 data files released via TRUD to the schedule provided in the Notification.
7	OPCS-4.9 made available in the NHS Digital Classifications Browser and eVersion to the schedule provided in the Notification.
8	Updated National Clinical Coding Standards – OPCS-4.9 reference book released via Delen and the Classifications Browser to the schedule provided in the Notification.
9	Hardback classifications made available from the TSO at a specially reduced price for NHS purchasers to the schedule provided in the Notification.
10	Training needs of clinical coders and other users assessed by September 2019.
11	Core national standard training materials published to the schedule provided in the Notification.
12	OPCS-4.9 coding queries answered by the Terminology and Classifications Delivery Service Product Support Helpdesk within the terms of the Service Level Agreement.

Conformance criteria for the NHS Digital National Casemix Office

#	Conformance
1	HRGs incorporate OPCS-4.9 updates to ensure the codes are accepted in the grouper(s) to be used from April 2020 onwards.

Contacts

The following table lists the contacts for the standard.

Developer	
Name	Lynn Bracewell
Organisation	NHS Digital
Email Address	Lynn.bracewell@nhs.net
SRO	
Name	Tom Denwood
Organisation	NHS Digital
Email Address	tom.denwood@nhs.net
Sponsor	
Name	Ian Townend, Lead Enterprise Business Architect
Organisation	NHSX
Email Address	ian.townend@nhs.net

Appendix 1: Data Sets that flow OPCS-4 codes

The Data Sets in the NHS Data Model and Dictionary that flow OPCS-4 codes are as follows:

Data Set	Link to NHS Data Model and Dictionary
Cancer Outcomes and Services Data Set - Core	https://www.datadictionary.nhs.uk/data_dictionary/messages/clinical_data_sets/data_sets/cancer_outcomes_and_services_data_set/cancer_outcomes_and_services_data_set_-_core_fr.asp?shownav=1
CDS V6-2 Type 010 - Accident and Emergency CDS	http://www.datadictionary.nhs.uk/data_dictionary/messages/cds_v6-2/data_sets/cds_v6-2_type_010_-_accident_and_emergency_cds_fr.asp?shownav=0
CDS V6-2 Type 020 - Outpatient CDS	http://www.datadictionary.nhs.uk/data_dictionary/messages/cds_v6-2/data_sets/cds_v6-2_type_020_-_outpatient_cds_fr.asp?shownav=0
CDS V6-2 Type 021 - Future Outpatient CDS	http://www.datadictionary.nhs.uk/data_dictionary/messages/cds_v6-2/data_sets/cds_v6-2_type_021_-_future_outpatient_cds_fr.asp?shownav=0
CDS V6-2 Type 030 - Elective Admission List - End of Period Census (Standard) CDS	http://www.datadictionary.nhs.uk/data_dictionary/messages/cds_v6-2/data_sets/cds_v6-2_type_030_-_elective_admission_list_-_end_of_period_census_(standard)_cds_fr.asp?shownav=0
CDS V6-2 Type 050 - Elective Admission List - End Of Period Census (New) CDS	http://www.datadictionary.nhs.uk/data_dictionary/messages/cds_v6-2/data_sets/cds_v6-2_type_050_-_elective_admission_list_-_end_of_period_census_(new)_cds_fr.asp?shownav=0
CDS V6-2 Type 060 - Elective Admission List - Event During Period (Add) CDS	http://www.datadictionary.nhs.uk/data_dictionary/messages/cds_v6-2/data_sets/cds_v6-2_type_060_-_elective_admission_list_-_event_during_period_(add)_cds_fr.asp?shownav=0
CDS V6-2 Type 110 - Elective Admission List - Event During Period (New Service Agreement) CDS	http://www.datadictionary.nhs.uk/data_dictionary/messages/cds_v6-2/data_sets/cds_v6-2_type_110_-_elective_admission_list_-_event_during_period_(new_service_agreement)_cds_fr.asp?shownav=0
CDS V6-2 Type 120 - Admitted Patient Care - Finished Birth Episode CDS	http://www.datadictionary.nhs.uk/data_dictionary/messages/cds_v6-2/data_sets/cds_v6-2_type_120_-_admitted_patient_care_-_finished_birth_episode_cds_fr.asp?shownav=0
CDS V6-2 Type 130 - Admitted Patient Care - Finished General Episode CDS	http://www.datadictionary.nhs.uk/data_dictionary/messages/cds_v6-2/data_sets/cds_v6-2_type_130_-_admitted_patient_care_-_finished_general_episode_cds_fr.asp?shownav=0

CDS V6-2 Type 140 - Admitted Patient Care - Finished Delivery Episode CDS	http://www.datadictionary.nhs.uk/data_dictionary/messages/cds_v6-2/data_sets/cds_v6-2_type_140_-_admitted_patient_care_-_finished_delivery_episode_cds_fr.asp?shownav=1
CDS V6-2 Type 180 - Admitted Patient Care - Unfinished Birth Episode CDS	http://www.datadictionary.nhs.uk/data_dictionary/messages/cds_v6-2/data_sets/cds_v6-2_type_180_-_admitted_patient_care_-_unfinished_birth_episode_cds_fr.asp?shownav=0
CDS V6-2 Type 190 - Admitted Patient Care - Unfinished General Episode CDS	http://www.datadictionary.nhs.uk/data_dictionary/messages/cds_v6-2/data_sets/cds_v6-2_type_190_-_admitted_patient_care_-_unfinished_general_episode_cds_fr.asp?shownav=0
CDS V6-2 Type 200 - Admitted Patient Care - Unfinished Delivery Episode CDS	http://www.datadictionary.nhs.uk/data_dictionary/messages/cds_v6-2/data_sets/cds_v6-2_type_200_-_admitted_patient_care_-_unfinished_delivery_episode_cds_fr.asp?shownav=0
Diagnostics Waiting Times and Activity Data Set	http://www.datadictionary.nhs.uk/data_dictionary/messages/central_return_data_sets/data_sets/diagnostics_waiting_times_and_activity_data_set_fr.asp?shownav=0
Diagnostics Waiting Times Census Data Set	http://www.datadictionary.nhs.uk/data_dictionary/messages/central_return_data_sets/data_sets/diagnostics_waiting_times_census_data_set_fr.asp?shownav=0
Neonatal Critical Care Minimum Data Set	http://www.datadictionary.nhs.uk/data_dictionary/messages/supporting_data_sets/data_sets/neonatal_critical_care_minimum_data_set_fr.asp?shownav=0
National Neonatal Data Set - Episodic and Daily Care	http://www.datadictionary.nhs.uk/data_dictionary/messages/clinical_data_sets/data_sets/national_neonatal_data_set/national_neonatal_data_set_-_episodic_and_daily_care_fr.asp?shownav=0
Paediatric Critical Care Minimum Data Set	http://www.datadictionary.nhs.uk/data_dictionary/messages/supporting_data_sets/data_sets/paediatric_critical_care_minimum_data_set_fr.asp?shownav=0
Radiotherapy Data Set	http://www.datadictionary.nhs.uk/data_dictionary/messages/clinical_data_sets/data_sets/radiotherapy_data_set_fr.asp?shownav=0
Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy Data Set	http://www.datadictionary.nhs.uk/data_dictionary/messages/clinical_data_sets/data_sets/systemic_anti-cancer_therapy_data_set_fr.asp?shownav=0