

# Emergency Care Data Set (ECDS) v4.0

## Change Specification

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## Data Alliance Partnership Board (DAPB)

This information standard (DAPB0092-2062) 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 Alliance Partnership Board (DAPB), a sub-group of the Digital Delivery Board.

This information standard comprises the following documents:

- Change Specification
- Implementation Guidance
- Requirements Specification
- Technical Output Specification.

An Information Standards Notice (DAPB0092-2062 Amd 17/2022) 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.

Date of publication: 10 January 2023

### **Update April 2023:**

Since publication on 10 January 2023, the need for corrections to the data set has been identified. A number of incorrect SNOMED CT concept IDs were included in the Change Specification and Technical Output Specification, leading to a discrepancy between these documents and the Enhanced Technical Output Specification (E TOS). Full details of the corrections are outlined in the corrigendum available on the information standard webpage <http://digital.nhs.uk/isce/publication/dapb0092-2062>.

# Glossary of Terms

See [Requirements Specification](#)

## 1. Overview

### 1.1 Summary

Standard	
Standard Number	DAPB0092-2062
Standard Title	Emergency Care Data Set v4.0
Standard Description	<p>Commissioning Data Sets are the primary mechanism for the national reporting of secondary care activity which is either NHS funded and/or provided by NHS organisations.</p> <p>The Department of Health and Social Care requires accurate data for the following types of patient activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency Care Department activity (attendances and urgent and emergency care extended care episodes) and outcomes</li> </ul> <p>The Commissioning Data Sets, including CDS Type 011 Emergency Care Data Set, are patient-level data sets intended to deliver robust, comprehensive, nationally consistent and comparable person-based information on secondary care activity.</p> <p>These activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• monitoring and management of NHS service agreements</li> <li>• development of commissioning plans</li> <li>• supporting the Payment by Results (PbR) processes</li> <li>• supporting NHS Comparators</li> <li>• monitoring Health Improvement Programmes</li> <li>• underpinning clinical governance</li> <li>• understanding the health needs of the population.</li> </ul> <p>Commissioning Data Sets are securely submitted to the Secondary Uses Service (SUS+) in XML format and form the basis of the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set.</p> <p>The Emergency Care Data Set (ECDS) v4.0 is closely aligned with the care and management of the patient, and the information collected relates to the existing range of secondary uses.</p>
<b>Release</b>	

Release Number	Amd 17/2022
Release Title	Emergency Care Data Set (ECDS) v4.0
Release Description	<p>The key changes in this release include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recording of Virtual Care (including virtual consultations)</li> <li>- Recording Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC) activity</li> <li>- Recording of Hot Clinics</li> <li>- Deprecation of EC Service Type 04 – ‘NHS walk in centres’</li> <li>- Recording activity relating to prevention of violence and injury / Injury Sharing to Tackle Violence (ISTV)</li> <li>- Introduction of new Assessment Scales</li> <li>- Expansion of clinical data terms (ECDS Max)</li> <li>- Other minor changes (see TOS Change Control for more details)</li> </ul>
In Scope	<p>The standard defines a Technical Output Specification (TOS) which describes the data submission required for ECDS v4.0, to be sourced from clinical systems. All services funded, and/or provided, by the NHS providing Emergency Care Departments providing Type 01, 02, 03, 05 and 06 Urgent and Emergency Care Activity Types are in scope.</p> <p>This includes all secondary care activity undertaken by NHS Hospital Providers, including patients receiving private treatment, and NHS patients treated electively in the independent sector (including ‘Any Qualified Provider’) and overseas, to support a variety of secondary use purposes (i.e. not for the direct care of the patient).</p>
Implementation Completion Date	<p>All providers of Type 01, 02, 03, 05 and 06 Urgent and Emergency Care Activity Types <b>MUST</b> submit ECDS v4.0 to SUS+ on a daily basis using MESH. Changes contained within this release <b>MUST</b> be implemented, such as to allow collection and extraction in the required manner, from 1 July 2023.</p> <p>Emergency Care Departments (or their nominated middleware supplier) <b>SHOULD</b> start flowing ECDS v4.0 data from 1 July 2023 and all Emergency Care Departments <b>MUST</b> submit ECDS v4.0 by 1 July 2024.</p>

## 1.2 Supporting Products

This document should be read in conjunction with the following

Reference	Title
<a href="#">DAPB0092-2062</a>	ECDS v4.0 Requirements Specification

<a href="#">DAPB0092-2062</a>	ECDS v4.0 Implementation Guidance
<a href="#">DAPB0092-2062</a>	ECDS v4.0 Technical Output Specification
<a href="#">DAPB0092-2062</a>	ECDS v4.0 User Guidance
<a href="#">DAPB0092-2062</a>	ECDS v4.0 NHS Data Model and Dictionary Change Request
<a href="#">DAPB0092-2062</a>	ECDS v4.0 XML Schema (hosted on TRUD – login required)

## 1.3 Related Standards

Ref #	Reference	Title
1	<a href="#">DAPB0092</a>	Commissioning Data Sets (CDS)
2	<a href="#">SCCI0034</a>	SNOMED CT
3	<a href="#">DCB1605</a>	Accessible Information
4	<a href="#">ISB 0149</a>	NHS Number
5	<a href="#">ISB 0149-02</a>	NHS Number for Secondary Care
6	<a href="#">ISB 1594</a>	Information Sharing to Tackle Violence (ISTV) (Deprecated from 1 April 2023)
7	<a href="#">ISB 1606</a>	Trauma Audit and Research Network (TARN)

## 2. Change Specification

Full details of all the data items are available within the TOS for ECDS v4.0.

The TOS includes the following details:

- Data Group, including Name, Function, Status and Repeats
- Unique Identifier (UID)
- XML Schema Element Name
- Data Item Name
- Data Item Definition
- Data Item Status (mandatory / required / optional / pilot)
- Data Item Repeats
- Data Item Format
- National Code
- National Code Definition

In addition, the Enhanced TOS (ETOS) will be published on [the ECDS webpage](#) and includes a number of additional details:

- Data Item Source - SNOMED CT/ Data Dictionary or ODS
- Justification for Inclusion / Information Requirement purpose
- Population / Validation rules
- Corresponding code set details, if relevant
- Data Dictionary page link
- Relevant notes

Note: No SNOMED CT codes are included in the TOS issued by DAPB. SNOMED CT codes are however presented in the ETOS published by NHS Digital.

### 2.1 Change Justification

A set of changes has been developed which aim to improve patient outcomes across Urgent and Emergency Care. These have been developed in consultation with the Royal College of Emergency Medicine, the Same Day Emergency Care Programme, Data Providers, System Suppliers, NHS Data Dictionary, National Urgent Treatment Centre Programme and Clinical Review of Standards (CRS) Programme which are run by NHS England.

This includes structural changes i.e. the removal/addition of some data structures, groups, data items and/or national code lists.

## 2.2 Change Items

The main changes introduced in ECDS v4.0 include:

### 2.1.1 Recording of Virtual Care (including virtual consultations)

With more patient / clinician interactions being virtual (due mainly to COVID) it's essential Virtual Care (including virtual consultations) is recorded accurately.

This can be supported by introducing the CONSULTATION MECHANISM (URGENT AND EMERGENCY CARE) field in ECDS v4.0, based on a data item already utilised in other Data Sets, but with options specific to Emergency Care settings and including the below values:

#### **Definition**

*“CONSULTATION MECHANISM (URGENT AND EMERGENCY CARE) is the same as attribute CONSULTATION MECHANISM for the CDS v6.2.3 Type 011 - Emergency Care CDS.*

*It is the communication mechanism used to relay information between the CARE PROFESSIONAL and the PERSON who is the subject of the consultation, during a CARE CONTACT.”*

The acceptable National Code values include:

Code	Description
01	Face to Face
02	Telephone
11	Video Consultation
13	Chat Room (Synchronous)

Several other data items have been subject to change, as their names, definitions or code lists are restricted (or seemingly restricted) to face to face consultations. All changes are described in the TOS and ETOS change control.

### 2.1.2 Recording Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC) activity

SDEC activity is growing and is encouraged (again mainly due to COVID and clearing backlogs) so needs to be recorded accurately.

EMERGENCY CARE DEPARTMENT TYPE codes and their definitions have been revised and replaced with more reflective descriptions including Urgent Emergency Care references

rather than Emergency Department, allowing a more flexible way to capture this information that also better matches the clinical flow of patients.

### **Type 5 Definition**

*“Same Day Emergency Care”*

### **Type 6 Definition**

*“Urgent and Emergency Care Extended Care Episode”*

In addition, a number of data items previously referring to ‘Emergency Care’ have been replaced with new items referring to ‘Urgent and Emergency Care’.

More details are available in the TOS.

## **2.1.3 Recording of Hot Clinics**

With many hospitals facing significant pressure, the consultant led 'Hot Clinics' were introduced to reduce unnecessary emergency inpatient admissions.

In order to allow ‘Hot Clinic’ data flow it is proposed to introduce an additional national code option for the URGENT AND EMERGENCY CARE ACTIVITY TYPE data item, aimed at recording the UEC Type 7 details described below.

### **Type 7 Definition**

*“Hot Clinic Attendance. Note this is only valid for piloting purposes.”*

## **2.1.4 Recording activity relating to prevention of violence and injury / Information Sharing to Tackle Violence (ISTV)**

The general purpose of the existing ISTV data set collected by Accident and Emergency (A&E) departments is to gather additional information covering all A&E attendances resulting from violent incidents.

The free text ASSAULT LOCATION DESCRIPTION data item was previously introduced as a Pilot field in ECDS v3.0.

The status of this field will change from Pilot to Required in ECDS v4.0. This is in order to support the retirement of the ISTV collection on 1 July 2024, reducing the burden on data providers.

## **2.1.5 Introduction of new Assessment Scales**

ECDS needs the ability to record Pain Scores and Delirium Scores. SNOMED CT codes have been added for these assessments along with associated score ranges. Data collection using these Assessment Tools is expected to start from 1 July 2023.

In addition, a new way of recording Frailty Scores has been introduced in ECDS v4.0.

An Assessment Tools tab has also been introduced in the E TOS, as already present in other data sets, where Assessment Tools-related information including SNOMED CT codes and acceptable score values can be stored.

### UEC Pain Scale

Concept ID (SNOMED CT): 1144798005

Preferred Term (SNOMED-CT): Verbal Rating Scale pain intensity rating score (observable entity)

Value	Value Description
0	No Pain
1	Mild pain
2	Moderate pain
3	Severe pain

### 4AT Rapid Clinical Test For Delirium Scale

Concept ID (SNOMED CT): 1239211000000103

Preferred Term (SNOMED-CT): 4 A's Test for delirium and cognitive impairment score (observable entity)

Value	Value Description
0-12	N/A

For more information on '4AT Rapid Clinical Test For Delirium' please visit:  
<https://www.the4at.com/4atguide>

### Rockwood Clinical Frailty Scale

Concept ID (SNOMED CT): 763264000

Preferred Term (SNOMED-CT): Canadian Study of Health and Aging Clinical Frailty Scale score (observable entity)

Value	Value Description
1	Very fit
2	Well
3	Managing well
4	Vulnerable
5	Mildly frail
6	Moderately frail
7	Severely frail
8	Very severely frail
9	Terminally ill

Please note that in addition to capturing patient Clinical Frailty scores using the new SNOMED CT concept and via the CODED SCORED ASSESSMENT group, ECDS v4.0 also allows for these scores to be recorded in the CODED CLINICAL FINDINGS group using one of the SNOMED CT codes introduced in ECDS v3.0.

### 2.1.6 Expansion of clinical data terms (ECDS Diagnosis Max)

A more granular/detailed (if required) diagnosis will greatly benefit and improve patient care.

In order to allow more detailed diagnoses to be submitted in ECDS, an expanded list of SNOMED codes has been introduced. This list, containing circa 55,000 codes, will be published on the [SUS+ webpage](#). An updated list is expected to be released on an annual basis.

### 2.1.7 Other changes

For the full list of changes implemented to the ECDS v4.0 please refer to the TOS Change Control list.

## 3. Implementation Plan

The table below outlines both when Emergency Care Departments should have started to flow and must have started to flow their data to NHS Digital. Past conformance dates for previous versions of ECDS are included for reference purposes.

For ECDS v4.0, Emergency Care Departments (or their nominated middleware supplier) **SHOULD** start flowing ECDS v4.0 data from 1 July 2023 and all Emergency Care Departments **MUST** submit ECDS v4.0 by 1 July 2024.

ECDS Version	Emergency Care Department Type	Start	Completion
1.0	Type 01: General Emergency Department (24 hour)	1 Aug 2017	1 Oct 2017
1.0	Type 02: Specialist Emergency Department	1 Aug 2017	1 Oct 2017
1.0	Type 03: Minor Injury Unit (including Urgent Treatment Centres)	1 Aug 2017	1 Oct 2018
1.0	Type 04: Walk in Centre	1 Aug 2017	1 Oct 2018
1.0	Retiring of CDS Type 010 A&E	n/a	1 April 2019
2.0	Types 01, 02, 03 and 04: -submitting on a daily basis, and -using CDS Type 011, and	November 2018	31 March 2019

	-using schema version v6.2.2, and -compliant with data quality requirements  Note: Urgent treatment centres (UTCs) are community and primary care facilities providing access to urgent care for a local population. All UTCs are classed as Type 03 Emergency Care Departments.		
3.0	Types 01, 02 and 03 using schema version v6.2.3	Any time from 1 Nov 2020	Must complete on or before 1 April 2021
4.0	Types 01, 02, 03, 05 and 06 using new schema v4.0	1 July 2023	1 July 2024

## 4. Further Information and Support

- **Data Alliance Partnership Board (DAPB):** For information relating to the ECDS standard, including change specification, requirements specification and implementation guide. <https://digital.nhs.uk/isce/publication/DAPB0092-2062>
- **NHS Data Model and Dictionary Service:** For information relating to the NHS Data Dictionary, including ECDS data elements, attributes, business definitions and supporting information. <http://www.datadictionary.nhs.uk/>
- **NHS Digital:** For enquiries relating to the ECDS implementation and support enquiries, email [dataset.development@nhs.net](mailto:dataset.development@nhs.net)
- **Secondary Uses Services:** The Secondary Uses Service is the single, comprehensive repository for healthcare data in England which enables a range of reporting and analyses to support the NHS in the delivery of healthcare services. <https://digital.nhs.uk/services/secondary-uses-service-sus>
- **Message Exchange for Social Care and Health:** The Message Exchange for Social Care and Health (MESH) is the main messaging service used across health and social care. <https://digital.nhs.uk/message-exchange-social-care-health>
- **Hospital Episode Statistics:** HES is a data warehouse containing details of all admissions, outpatient appointments and Emergency Care Departments attendances at NHS hospitals in England. <https://digital.nhs.uk/hes>
- **Organisation Data Service (ODS):** The Organisation Data Service (ODS) is responsible for publishing organisation and practitioner codes, along with related national policies and standards. <https://digital.nhs.uk/organisation-data-service>

- **National Casemix Service:** The National Casemix Office designs and refines classifications that are used by the NHS in England to describe healthcare activity. <https://digital.nhs.uk/services/national-casemix-office>
- **NHS England:** Further information relating to ECDS and NHS England. [www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/tsd/ec-data-set/](http://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/tsd/ec-data-set/)

## 5. Change Control

The ECDS v4.0 Enhanced Technical Output Specification Change Control will cover any future changes to ECDS v4.0 made after this version of the data set goes live. These changes will be limited to validations, business rules and error messages that are not included in the version of the Technical Output Specification published alongside the ISN and will not affect the high-level changes described in this document. The latest version of the Enhanced Technical Output Specification is published with other supporting documents on [the NHS Digital ECDS webpage](#).