



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

HIV and AIDS Reporting System: Change Specification

Version 1.0/ October 2016

About Public Health England

Public Health England exists to protect and improve the nation's health and wellbeing, and reduce health inequalities. We do this through world-class science, knowledge and intelligence, advocacy, partnerships and the delivery of specialist public health services. We are an executive agency of the Department of Health, and are a distinct delivery organisation with operational autonomy to advise and support government, local authorities and the NHS in a professionally independent manner.

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This information standard (SCCI1570) has been approved for publication by the Department of Health 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 Standardisation Committee for Care Information (SCCI), a sub-group of the National Information Board.

This information standard comprises the following documents:

- Requirement Specification
- Change Specification
- Implementation Guidance.

An Information Standards Notice (SCCI1570 Amd 20/2015) 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 (eg paper, email attachment), are considered to have passed out of control and should be checked for currency and validity.

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Contents

About Public Health England	2
SCCI information standard	3
Summary of the standard	5
Change Specification	8
Guidance and support	12

Summary of the standard

Standard details	
SCCI unique identifier	SCCI1570 (Amd 20/2015)
Name	HIV and AIDS Reporting System (HARS)
Standard definition	
Description	<p>The HIV and AIDS Reporting System (HARS) is a dataset that underpins national HIV surveillance. This return will eventually replace current HIV surveillance systems including the new HIV and AIDS diagnoses and death surveillance and SOPHID (the Survey of Prevalent HIV Infections Diagnosed).</p> <p>The HARS dataset is used to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inform the public health response and policy formulation for HIV in England • identify the groups at risk of HIV infection in England • monitor the short and long term clinical outcomes of people living with HIV infection • monitor the effectiveness of the national policies and guidance • adapt and refine interventions, as appropriate <p>Secondary analyses of the data will produce aggregate outputs that are used to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • directly support the commissioning of HIV services through collation of data • inform the national HIV outpatient tariff • conduct performance management at the local authority and national level <p>This standard defines a method for submitting the HARS data electronically reduces the burden on clinicians and clinic staff by pulling in data from the patient's electronic record as well as eliminating the need to report to several surveillance systems.</p>
About this change	
Description	<p>This change addresses issues in the current dataset as well as to better capture developments in HIV diagnoses and treatment including antiretroviral drugs prescribed to patients.</p> <p>Additional data items are also included to better support the commissioning of HIV services via the national tariff payment system.</p>

Scope	Health services, NHS services, local authorities
Applies to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • staff working in HIV and GUM clinics that provide care to HIV outpatients • scientific and public health staff working at Public Health England • local authorities, primary care trusts, commissioners, strategic health authority and Department of Health staff concerned with planning services and managing performance
Impacts Upon	Implementation of the change to this information standard impacts all health IT systems suppliers providing systems to the above providers; suppliers should work with their customers to determine and implement necessary changes.
Dates	
Implementation date	01/11/2016
Full conformance date	31/03/2017
Post Implementation Review date	31/03/2018

Supporting documents

Document	Description	Location
Information Standards Notice	Notification of publication of a new or amended standard.	SCCI webpage
Implementation guidance	This document provides guidance on how to implement the HARS dataset either as a new user or as an existing user looking to make changes resulting from the release of the updated HARS Information Standards Notice (ISN)	SCCI webpage
Requirement Specification	Outlines the scope of the information standard and how it should be implemented. Provides an overview of the requirements for both care providers and system suppliers, and associated conformance criteria (the tests that can be measured to assess whether the standard is being used correctly).	SCCI webpage
Data Dictionary	Detailed overview of every data item in the dataset	HARS webpage
User Guidance	Guidance for providers about the content of the data set, including behavioural guidance about interpreting each data item and the submission	HARS webpage

	process.	
Technical Guidance	Guidance for providers and system suppliers about the structure and content of the output XML file, including guidance about how to map/format each individual data item and explanation of messages received from the system.	HARS webpage

SCCI webpage: <http://content.digital.nhs.uk/isce/publication/scci1570>

HARS webpage: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/hiv-surveillance-systems>

Change specification

Reason for change

The HARS dataset requires updates for several reasons. HIV is a fast moving area and surveillance has to evolve to be able to accurately capture data on the changing landscape. There are several items in the dataset which are no longer capturing data in the way originally intended and, as such, require amendment to ensure it continues to be fit for purpose.

HARS is also used by other stakeholders who have requested additional data items to be able to monitor certain outcomes. This in turn saves time and resources by having the data collected centrally in a national dataset where the data can be processed and cleaned by staff with the expertise in handling such sensitive and complex data.

HARS also supports commissioning via the national tariff payment system and there have been minor amendments to the dataset in order to better support this function.

Change control

The changes to the HARS dataset are outlined in the HARS data dictionary. This change specification therefore represents a summary of the changes to HARS and should be read in conjunction with all documents to fully understand the change and the impact of the change.

The changes to HARS can be summarised into three groups:

1. addition of new data items
2. amendments to existing items
3. retirement of data items

Addition of new data items

The new data items being added to the HARS dataset are outlined below:

Data item category	Data item name (NHS data dictionary naming)	Mandatory/ Required/ Optional
Demographic	YEAR AND MONTH OF LAST CARE PROFESSIONAL HIV COMMUNICATION	Required
Demographic	GENDER IDENTITY SAME AT BIRTH INDICATOR	Mandatory

HIV clinic attendance	CARE PROFESSIONAL TYPE (HIV)	Required
Clinical	PATIENT DIAGNOSIS INDICATOR (VIRAEMIA)	Mandatory
Clinical	LATENT TUBERCULOSIS TEST PERFORMED INDICATOR	Optional
Clinical	OFFER STATUS (HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS VACCINATION)	Required
Clinical	HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS VACCINATION DOSE GIVEN	Required

Amendments to existing data items

The following existing data items have had their coding amended:

Data item	Amendment type
GENDER IDENTITY CODE (SEXUAL HEALTH)	New codes/categories to better identify the gender that people may identify with
INITIAL DIAGNOSIS CARE SETTING OR SERVICE (HIV)	New codes/categories to include new settings of diagnosis
TEST OF RECENT INFECTION RESULT (HIV)	Change in format from n3 (with restrictions) to maxn3.n1 (no restrictions)
NUMBER OF HIV CONTACTS	Amendment to the definition of the question and who it applies to. Field has also been made "Required" from "Optional"
NUMBER OF HIV CONTACTABLE CONTACTS	Amendment to the definition of the question and who it applies to. Field has also been made "Required" from "Optional"
NUMBER OF HIV CONTACTABLE CONTACTS TESTED FOR HIV	Amendment to the definition of the question and who it applies to. Field has also been made "Required" from "Optional"
POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS INDICATOR	Previous field POST AND/OR PRE EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS CODE now coded to Y/N
PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS INDICATOR	Previous field POST AND/OR PRE EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS CODE now coded to Y/N
ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY DRUG (SNOMED CT DM+D)	Adoption of SNOMED CT dm+d coding

AIDS DEFINING ILLNESS CODE ADULT (SNOMED CT)	Adoption of SNOMED CT coding
HEPATITIS B INFECTION INDICATION CODE	Change from Y/N format to AN1 to identify chronic or acute hepatitis infection
HEPATITIS C INFECTION INDICATION CODE	Change from Y/N format to AN1 to identify chronic or acute hepatitis infection

Retirement of data items

The following data items have been retired from the HARS dataset:

- PERSON GENDER CODE AT REGISTRATION
- CLINICAL TRIAL INDICATOR

Impact of changes

Please see HARS implementation guidance for further supporting information relating to the impact of included changes to existing users of this information standard.

Flow of data

There are no changes to the flow of data. Users will collect or extract data in the same method as previous with adjustments implemented based on the new and amended data items.

Data will be extracted in XML format on a quarterly basis and submitted to the PHE secure HIV and STI web portal where it will undergo automated validation for data quality and completeness.

Data validation

With the update to the dataset there will also be changes to the validations that the file will be run against to account for the new and amended data items. There is no change to the validation process itself, on upload of the data to the HIV and STI web portal the data will undergo a 2 stage validation process:

Stage 1: validates the file against the XML schema to ensure all data items are in the correct format and that all mandatory fields are complete.

Stage 2: once stage is passed, the data are validated against a set of hierarchical business rules designed to highlight errors within the dataset itself. Errors are

categorised into three groups; A (major), B (medium) and C (minor). Any file with an A error is automatically rejected whilst a file with over a certain threshold of B errors will also be rejected.

At each stage the provider will be notified of the outcome of the validations, either on screen or via email.

New error messages will also be introduced in this update to highlight low completeness of certain key fields.

For a detailed list of all the validations run please see the HARS User Guidance.

Further details on the validation process and explanation of error messages can be found in the HARS Technical Guidance.

Guidance and support

Guidance

The guidance documentation for the standard can be found on the PHE webpage:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/hiv-surveillance-systems>

The link to the HIV and STI web portal can be found at:

<https://hivstiwebportal.phe.org.uk/login.aspx>

In addition to the published documentation, a quarterly reporting protocol will be sent out to all providers to remind them of the reporting deadlines and to provide further guidance based on feedback received.

Support mechanisms

Detailed guidance documents are provided and every effort has been made to make these as comprehensive as possible however it is acknowledged there may be queries outstanding given the complex nature of the data being captured. If this is the case please contact the HARS team at PHE on 020 8327 6827 or HARSQueries@phe.gov.uk. Any queries raised will assist in the development of the guidance materials.

Technical questions relating to how the system extracts or processes data locally should be directed to the software supplier.

If there are issues with the use of the web portal to submit and validate the data, please email HARSQueries@phe.gov.uk.