

Date: 16 January 2012

To: All Chief Executives in NHS Trusts in England
All Chief Executives in NHS Foundation Trusts in England
All Chief Executives in Primary Care Trusts in England
All Chief Executives in Mental Health Trusts in England
All Chief Executives in Strategic Health Authorities in England
All Allied Health Professionals in England

Cc: The Allied Health Professions Federation
AHP professional bodies
Directors of Information Technology
SHA Allied Health Professional Leads

Gateway reference: 17101

Allied Health Professionals Referral to Treatment Data Collection Mandate

Dear colleague

With the release of the Allied Health Professions (AHP) Referral to treatment (RTT) Revised guide on the DH website on the 22nd December 2011, this is an opportune time to clarify the requirement for the collection of AHP RTT data locally.

Current position

From 1 April 2011, all AHPs delivering NHS funded services in community, acute and mental health settings were encouraged to collect AHP RTT data for local reporting purposes.

A local Information Standards Notice (ISN) published in August 2011 informs the NHS of the Community Information Data Set (CIDS). This data set, which includes AHP RTT data items, provides national definitions for secondary uses data that will generate reliable information for local and national monitoring and reporting for effective commissioning. The local ISN for CIDS should be recognised by all NHS funded providers of community services and suppliers of community information systems, and requires that suppliers of community systems must ensure that systems are fully compliant with the standard by August 2013. All providers of community services must be fully conformant with this standard capturing the information required by April 2014.

Technical guidance and timescales for data flow and reporting is available on the NHS Information Centre website, including the local ISN for CIDS.
<http://www.ic.nhs.uk/services/in-development/community-information-programme/community-information-data-set-cids>

Referral to treatment waiting times remains a key indicator of service performance and patient experience. This requires data to be collected consistently according to national standards as set in the 'Allied Health Professional Referral to Treatment Guide' (DH, 2010) and the revised guide (DH, 2011), to support benchmarking and provide information to support patient choice.

The recent AHP Service Improvement Project (SIP) (DH, 2011) used AHP RTT as a tool to enable AHPs to identify the focus for service improvement and to develop local solutions that support delivery of the QIPP challenge. Further details of the AHP SIP can be found at
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_126840

AHP RTT Data Reporting

I would encourage all AHPs delivering NHS funded care to base their local data collections, local flows and reporting of AHP RTT data on the CIDS structure in anticipation of a national mandate for collection and reporting of data.

If you are requiring any clarity concerning how to measure AHP RTT waiting times, the AHP RTT revised guide can be accessed on the link below.
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_131948

Further work is planned around flowing AHP RTT in the Commissioning Data Set for Outpatient Attendances (CDS Type 020) and the Mental Health Minimum Data Set, subject to approval by the Information Standards Board (ISB) and Review for Central Returns (ROCR).



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