

Social Care Data Quality Requirements For Linking To PDS

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1. Background

The Department of Health has commissioned a small number of Social Care PDS Early Adopters and Common Assessment Framework (CAF) for adults demonstrator projects. They are local partnerships including adult social care and NHS organisations. The Social Care PDS early adopters are linking their social care management systems to the Personal Demographics Service (PDS) so that they can obtain valid NHS numbers and share demographics information. The CAF demonstrators are implementing integrated assessment and care planning processes and, in this context, will be sharing demographic and health and social care assessment and care plan information.

Prior to linking to the PDS, the local authorities engaged in the early adopter and demonstrator programmes will need to have achieved a high level of data quality in those demographic records which will interface to the PDS.

2. Purpose Of The Paper

This paper sets out data quality requirements for social care demographic records interfacing to the Personal Demographics Service and how they will be assessed.

3. What Is The Target?

The data quality target set for social care demographic records interfacing to the Personal Demographics Service is:

95% of active clients and 100% of inactive client records have a recently traced and verified NHS number (i.e. within 6 months prior to interface to PDS).

4. Cohort of Social Care Records For Interfacing To The PDS

Some social care indexes include all individuals with whom the social services authority has a relationship, such as staff, carers, relatives etc. Only client records will be linked to the PDS.

'Active Clients' can be defined as clients who:

- 1) Are being referred or are awaiting assessment
- 2) Are being assessed
- 3) Have a care package currently delivered
- 4) Have a review scheduled with or without a current care package

The SCPEA and CAF demonstrator sites are working with adults rather than children. The cohort of adult records is a local decision but may be either:

- 1) All records for individuals who are over 18
- 2) As above, but in addition, records for individuals who are under 18, but who are transitioning to adult services. The transitioning process can start from around 15 years onwards
- 3) All records for individuals who are over 15, e.g. if it is difficult to identify those individuals transitioning to adult services.

'Inactive Clients' are those clients with whom the authority no longer has an active relationship. The 100% requirement for inactive client records is only applicable to any non active record that an authority would wish to interface with the PDS. Authorities will need to agree with their suppliers either of the following approaches to handling inactive records:

- 1) Flagging these records to ensure that they never connected to the Spine.
- 2) An archiving facility to allow removal of inactive records from the system.

5. How Will Compliance Be Assessed?

The data quality target is included in the NHS CFH Common Assurance Process (CAP) deployment checklist. The requirement is for suppliers/sites to produce a report setting out the proportion of active and inactive client records with valid NHS numbers. This will be reviewed by NHS CFH as part of the deployment gateway.

Data quality processes for wider roll-out and continued use of PDS have not yet been agreed. Discussions will be held with SHAs, who have the lead for data quality in the NHS, and with the Care Quality Commission, which also has a data quality role, to determine a sustainable approach.