

Cancer Outcomes and Services Dataset (COSD) Update February 2012

What is the COSD?

The COSD will be the new national standard for reporting cancer in the NHS in England. It will replace the current National Cancer Dataset and will include the Cancer Registration dataset and additional site specific data items relevant to the different tumour types. It will be aligned with existing national cancer datasets ([Cancer Waits](#) and [Radiotherapy](#)) and with the [Systemic Anti Cancer Therapy dataset](#) (SACT), currently in development.

Why is it needed?

We needed to revise the national cancer dataset to ensure that we meet the current information requirements for the NHS. The Cancer Reform Strategy (2007) identified better information and stronger commissioning as two of the key drivers to achieve the goal that cancer services in this country should be amongst the best in the world. The subsequent Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer (January 2011) further supports this concept to demonstrate cancer outcomes using high quality data and intelligence for all stakeholders.

What is different from current data collection?

COSD will clarify the items that need to be submitted electronically directly to the cancer registries on a monthly basis. Many Trusts are already sending data directly to the registries from systems such as MDT software, PAS (Patient Administration Systems) and Pathology: COSD will confirm the definitions and values for these items. Many other items in COSD are already being submitted through standard NHS routes such as Cancer Waits and, apart from key items, these will not need to be resent. Most of the remaining items in COSD are site specific and are required for patient management and clinical care. These will also need to be submitted directly to the registries. Data from all sources will be linked by the registries at patient level using NHS Number to complete the full dataset.

What is happening next?

The dataset has now undergone “feasibility testing” by a number of MDTs (Multidisciplinary Teams) and the results have been reviewed by the NCIN’s Site Specific Clinical Reference Groups (SSCRGs). Subsequently there have been some further modifications to the data items and the revised dataset is now available on the [COSD page](#) of the NCIN website. Further User Guidance documents, including templates to assess state of readiness are being prepared and will be available shortly, along with the draft specification once approved.

The XML schema for the dataset has also been developed and is currently undergoing testing. The draft schema is available for download and is open for consultation until 7th March on the Data Dictionary and Modelling Service (DMDS) (see below).

The NCIN and Data Dictionary and Modelling Service will be running some workshops over the summer to help Trusts with in-house systems to develop the schema and there will also be some ad hoc support available. (Further details will be sent out nearer the time).

We are also considering if it would be feasible to run a “Roadshow” event for every Network in order to share information about the COSD and discuss any issues with clinicians, management and administrative colleagues who may be affected and to discuss progress towards implementation. We would welcome any comments on this to the COSD email address below.

When will the standard apply?

Any final amendments to the structure of the dataset will be made following the XML testing phase and the final version is due to be submitted to the NHS Information Standards Board (ISB) in April 2012. If approved by the ISB the COSD will become a new Information Standard and is expected to be mandated for all NHS Trusts from 1st January 2013. (Please note that the implementation timescales have been revised for the reasons explained in the position statement on the NCIN website.

Further information

Progress updates and relevant documentation will be made available through the NCIN website and further editions of this newsletter.

To access **the current version of the dataset and Guidance Documents (NCIN):**

http://www.ncin.org.uk/collecting_and_using_data/data_collection/cancer_outcomes_and_services_dataset.aspx

To access **the schema, consultation and related documents (DMDS)**

<https://www.portal.nss.cfh.nhs.uk/sites/datadictionary/cp1196/default.aspx>
(password required - please email datastandards@nhs.net)

If you have any specific queries or would like further information please email cosd@ncin.org.uk

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