

## Health and Social Care Information Centre

### NHS Data Model and Dictionary Service

**Type:** Data Dictionary Change Notice  
**Reference:** 1459  
**Version No:** 1.0  
**Subject:** General Medical Practitioner (Specified), Doctor Index Number and General Medical Practitioner PPD Code Update  
**Effective Date:** Immediate  
**Reason for Change:** Change to definitions  
**Publication Date:** 24 February 2014

#### Background:

The Data Element "GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER (SPECIFIED)" still refers to Primary Care Trusts in relation to information being used to derive the GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER PPD CODE.

This Data Dictionary Change Notice (DDCN) updates the following definitions to reflect the changes in responsibilities that were set out in the Health and Social Care Act 2012:

- Data Element GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER (SPECIFIED)
- Attributes DOCTOR INDEX NUMBER and GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER PPD CODE.

To view a demonstration on "How to Read an NHS Data Model and Dictionary Change Request", visit the NHS Data Model and Dictionary help pages at: [http://www.datadictionary.nhs.uk/Flash\\_Files/changerequest.htm](http://www.datadictionary.nhs.uk/Flash_Files/changerequest.htm).

Note: if the web page does not open, please copy the link and paste into the web browser.

#### Summary of changes:

##### Supporting Information

[HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE INFORMATION CENTRE](#) Changed Description  
[SPECIAL HEALTH AUTHORITY](#) Changed Description

##### Attribute Definitions

[DOCTOR INDEX NUMBER](#) Changed Description  
[GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER PPD CODE](#) Changed Description

##### Data Elements

[GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER \(SPECIFIED\)](#) Changed Description

**Date:** 24 February 2014

**Sponsor:** Dr K. Lunn, Director of Information Standards Delivery. Health and Social Care Information Centre

**Note:** New text is shown with a blue background. Deleted text is crossed out. Retired text is shown in grey. Within the Diagrams deleted classes and relationships are red, changed items are blue and new items are green.

---

## HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE INFORMATION CENTRE

---

Change to Supporting Information: Changed Description

The [Health and Social Care Information Centre \(HSCIC\)](#) is an NHS [Special Health Authority](#). The [Health and Social Care Information Centre \(HSCIC\)](#) is an [ORGANISATION](#).

The [Health and Social Care Information Centre](#) is the national source of NHS, health and social care information. The [Health and Social Care Information Centre](#) was set up as an Executive Non Departmental Public Body (ENDPB) in April 2013.

Previously known as [The NHS Information Centre for health and social care](#), the [Health and Social Care Information Centre](#) have reverted to their statutory name to reflect their broader social care responsibilities. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 sets out the [Health and Social Care Information Centre's](#) responsibilities, which include:

- Collecting, analysing and presenting national health and social care data
- Setting up and managing national IT systems for transferring, collecting and analysing information
- Publishing a set of rules to set out how the personal confidential information of [PATIENTS](#) should be handled and managed by health and care staff and [ORGANISATIONS](#)
- Building up a library of 'indicators' that can be used to measure the quality of health and care services provided to the public
- Acting to reduce how much paperwork doctors, nurses and care workers have to complete by ensuring that only essential data is collected
- Helping health and care [ORGANISATIONS](#) improve the quality of the data they collect and send to the [Health and Social Care Information Centre](#) by setting standards and guidelines to help them assess how well they are doing
- Creating a register of all the information that the [Health and Social Care Information Centre](#) collect and produce, and publishing that information in a range of different formats so that it will be useful to as many people as possible while safeguarding the personal confidential data of individuals.

The [Health and Social Care Information Centre](#) collects, analyses and presents information for health and social care communities in England. From tackling health inequalities to commissioning with confidence, the [Health and Social Care Information Centre's](#) information ensures decision makers deliver the very best [SERVICES](#) and [PATIENT](#) care. Further information on the [Health and Social Care Information Centre](#) can be found on the [Health and Social Care Information Centre website](#).

The [Health and Social Care Information Centre's](#) information supports commissioners, public health analysts, clinicians and informatics professionals in health and social care, as well as the public.

Further information on the [Health and Social Care Information Centre](#) can be found on the [Health and Social Care Information Centre website](#).

---

## SPECIAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

---

Change to Supporting Information: Changed Description

A [Special Health Authority \(SpHA\)](#) is an [ORGANISATION](#).

A [Special Health Authority](#) provides a health service to the whole of England, not just to a local community, for example, [Health and Social Care Information Centre](#) etc. A [Special Health Authority](#) provides a health service to the whole of England, not just to a local community, for example, the [NHS Business Services Authority](#), [Health Research Authority](#) etc.

[Special Health Authorities](#) are independent, but can be subject to ministerial direction in the same way as other NHS bodies.

For further information on [Special Health Authorities](#), see the NHS Choices website at:

- [Special Health Authorities](#)
- [Authorities and trusts](#).

## DOCTOR INDEX NUMBER

Change to Attribute: Changed Description

The [General Medical Council](#) allocates all doctors a [GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL REFERENCE NUMBER](#) on their first contact with the [General Medical Council](#).

- If a doctor chooses to enter general practice in England or Wales, a further 6-digit number is allocated by the [Health and Social Care Information Centre](#). This number is referred to as the [DOCTOR INDEX NUMBER](#).
- The [DOCTOR INDEX NUMBER](#) is passed to the requesting [Clinical Commissioning Group](#) or [ORGANISATION](#) authorised to act on their behalf who then liaise with [NHS Prescription Services](#) on the issue of prescription pads etc.
- [NHS Prescription Services](#) use the number to derive the [GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER PPD CODE](#) by prefixing it with a leading character and adding a check digit at the end.

~~If a doctor chooses to enter general practice in England or Wales, a further 6-digit number is allocated by the [Health and Social Care Information Centre](#). This number is referred to as the [DOCTOR INDEX NUMBER](#).~~

~~The [DOCTOR INDEX NUMBER](#) is passed to the [NHS Prescription Services](#), which adds a leading character and a check digit to create the [GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER PPD CODE](#). The [NHS Prescription Services](#) uses this for the issue of prescription pads, etc.~~

A doctor can be both a [GENERAL PRACTITIONER](#) and a Hospital [CONSULTANT](#), and therefore hold a [DOCTOR INDEX NUMBER](#), [GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER PPD CODE](#) and a [CONSULTANT CODE](#) simultaneously.

## Doctor Index Number Code Table

Practitioner Code Type	Character Position						Allocated By	Allocated To	Known As	Notes
	1	2	3	4	5	6				
<a href="#">DOCTOR INDEX NUMBER</a>	<del>0-9</del>	<del>0-9</del>	<del>0-9</del>	<del>0-9</del>	<del>0-9</del>	<del>0-9</del>	<a href="#">Health and Social Care Information Centre</a>	GMPs in England & Wales	<a href="#">DIN</a>	<del>Allocated to a doctor upon applying to enter General Practice in England or Wales</del>
<a href="#">DOCTOR INDEX NUMBER</a>	0-9	0-9	0-9	0-9	0-9	0-9	<a href="#">Health and Social Care Information Centre</a>	GMPs in England & Wales	<a href="#">DIN</a>	Allocated to a doctor upon applying to enter General Medical Practice in England or Wales

## GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER PPD CODE

Change to Attribute: Changed Description

This is the [NHS Prescription Services](#) code to identify a [GENERAL PRACTITIONER](#). This is the [NHS Prescription Services](#) code to identify a [GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER](#).

The [DOCTOR INDEX NUMBER](#) is passed to the [NHS Prescription Services](#), which adds a leading character and a check digit to create the [GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER PPD CODE](#). [NHS Prescription Services](#) use this for the issue of prescription pads, etc. [NHS Prescription Services](#) use this for the issue of prescription pads etc.

In the event of a [GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER](#) running more than one practice, a spurious code will be assigned to the Practitioner for each additional practice, these codes are NOT based on the practitioners [DOCTOR INDEX NUMBER](#). For England and Wales, in addition to a [GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER PPD CODE](#), a [GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER](#) may have one or more spurious [GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER Code\(s\)](#). These are allocated if a [GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER](#) works in additional [General Medical Practitioner Practice](#). The spurious [GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER Codes](#) are not derived from the [DOCTOR INDEX NUMBER](#), but do follow the same format as the [GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER PPD CODE](#), and are allocated by the [NHS Prescription Services](#). All spurious [GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER Codes](#) begin with either 'G6' or 'G7'.

## England and Wales General Medical Practitioner Code format

Practitioner Code Type	Character Position								Allocated By	Allocated To	Known As	Notes
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8				
<a href="#">GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER PPD CODE</a>	G	0-9	0-9	0-9	0-9	0-9	0-9	0-9	<a href="#">NHS Prescription Services</a>	Prescribing GMPs in England & Wales	GMP	Derived from <a href="#">DOCTOR INDEX NUMBER - NHS Prescription Services</a> add leading G and a check digit. Associated with practice

In addition to a [GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER PPD CODE](#), a [GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER](#) may have one or more spurious General Practitioner Code(s). These are allocated if a [GENERAL PRACTITIONER](#) works in additional [General Medical Practices](#). The spurious General Practitioner Codes are not derived from the [DOCTOR INDEX NUMBER](#), but do follow the same format as the [GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER PPD CODE](#), and are allocated by the [NHS Prescription Services](#). All spurious General Practitioner Codes begin with either 'G6' or 'G7'.

## Scottish General Medical Practitioner Code format

Practitioner Code Type	Character Position								Allocated By	Allocated To	Known As	Notes
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8				
Scottish General Medical Practitioner Code	S	0-9	0-9	0-9	0-9	0-9	0-9	0-9	Information Standards Division (Scotland)	GMPs in Scotland	GMP	

## Northern Ireland General Medical Practitioner Code format

Practitioner Code Type	Character Position								Allocated By	Allocated To	Known As	Notes

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8				
Northern Ireland General Medical Practitioner Code	Z	E, N, S, W	0-9	0-9	0-9	0-9	0-9	0	Northern Ireland Dept of Health, Social Services and Public Safety	GMPs in Northern Ireland	GMP	

## GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER (SPECIFIED)

Change to Data Element: Changed Description

Format/Length:	an8
HES Item:	REGGMP
National Codes:	
<u>ODS Default Codes:</u>	G9999998 - <a href="#">GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER PPD CODE</a> not known
	G9999981 - <a href="#">GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER PPD CODE</a> not applicable

### Notes:

[GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER \(SPECIFIED\)](#) is the code of the [GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER](#) specified by the [PATIENT](#). [GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER \(SPECIFIED\)](#) is the [GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER PPD CODE](#) of the [GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER](#) specified by the [PATIENT](#).

This [GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER](#) works within the [General Medical Practitioner Practice](#) with which the [PATIENT](#) is registered.

The [General Medical Council](#) allocates all doctors a [GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL REFERENCE NUMBER](#) on their first contact with the [General Medical Council](#).

*Note - when a doctor is registered to practise medicine in the United Kingdom, their details will appear on the "General Medical Council List of Registered Medical Practitioners" (LRMP). A [GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER](#) will have at least one of the following:*

- [GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL REFERENCE NUMBER](#)
- [DOCTOR INDEX NUMBER](#)
- [GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER PPD CODE](#).

If an NHS doctor chooses to enter general practice, a further number is allocated, the [DOCTOR INDEX NUMBER](#), by the [Health and Social Care Information Centre](#). This number is passed to the [Primary Care Trust](#) requesting the number who then liaise with [NHS Prescription Services](#) on the issue of prescription pads etc. [NHS Prescription Services](#) use the number to derive the [GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER PPD CODE](#) by prefixing it with the character 'G' and adding a check digit at the end. **Ministry of Defence Doctors:**

The [GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER](#) code is an eight character alphanumeric code, see [PERSON IDENTIFIER](#) and [GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER PPD CODE](#).

Whilst Ministry of Defence doctors provide general medical services to their communities, they are not [GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS](#) and should not be recorded as Registered [GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS](#). They can refer ([REFERRER CODE](#)).

### ~~GMP (CODE OF REGISTERED OR REFERRING GMP) DESCRIPTION REPLACED 1 JUNE 2008.~~

~~This is the code of the GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER (GMP) with whom the PATIENT is registered.~~

~~A doctor receives a GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL REFERENCE NUMBER on qualification. If he/she then chooses to enter general practice, a further number is allocated (the DOCTOR INDEX NUMBER) by The NHS Information Centre for health and social care. This number is passed to the Primary Care Trust (PCT) requesting the number who then liaise with the NHS Business Services Authority Prescription Pricing Division on the issue of prescription pads etc. The NHS Business Services Authority Prescription Pricing Division use the number to derive the GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER PPD CODE by prefixing it with the character 'G' and adding a check digit at the end. The GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER code linked to his/her main practice is included on the National Administrative Codes Service (NACS) CD-ROM and the NACS *NHSnet* website.~~

~~The GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER code is an eight character alphanumeric code, see PERSON IDENTIFIER and GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER PPD CODE.~~

~~When a locum refers, use the code of the GENERAL PRACTITIONER for whom the locum is acting. See GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER PPD CODE.~~

~~For GENERAL PRACTITIONERS working in hospitals, the following codes should be used:~~

- ~~- if the GENERAL PRACTITIONER is working as an assistant, use the code of the responsible consultant;~~
- ~~- if the GENERAL PRACTITIONER is working as a consultant, use the GENERAL PRACTITIONER's GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL REFERENCE NUMBER.~~

~~Whilst Ministry of Defence (MoD) doctors provide general medical services to their communities, they are not GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS and should not be recorded as Registered GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS. They can refer (REFERRER CODE).~~

~~For the National Administrative Codes Service (NACS) contact details, see Contact Details.~~

- If a Ministry of Defence Doctor **has** a GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER PPD CODE, the GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER PPD CODE should be used
- If a Ministry of Defence Doctor **does not have** a GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER PPD CODE, Organisation Data Service Default Code G9999981 'GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER PPD CODE not applicable' should be used.

---

For enquiries about this Change Request, please email [information.standards@hscic.gov.uk](mailto:information.standards@hscic.gov.uk)