

## Health and Social Care Information Centre

### NHS Data Model and Dictionary Service

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Type:</b>              | Data Dictionary Change Notice  |
| <b>Reference:</b>         | 1559   |
| <b>Version No:</b>        | 1.0  |
| <b>Subject:</b>           | Lower Layer Super Output Area (Residence) and ONS Local Government Geography Code (Local Authority District) |
| <b>Effective Date:</b>    | Immediate  |
| <b>Reason for Change:</b> | Update to information  |
| <b>Publication Date:</b>  | 29 January 2016  |

### Background:

It has been identified that the Data Elements Lower Layer Super Output Area (Residence) and ONS Local Government Geography Code (Local Authority District) are out of date in the NHS Data Model and Dictionary.

These Data Elements are currently only used in the following Data Sets:

- Genitourinary Medicine Clinic Activity Data Set
- HIV and AIDS Reporting Data Set
- NHS Health Checks Data Set
- Sexual and Reproductive Health Activity Data Set

The current NHS Data Model and Dictionary content is:

- Lower Layer Super Output Area (Residence):
  - The NHS Data Model and Dictionary default codes are currently:
    - Z99999999 - Scotland, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands, Isle of Man
    - X99999998 - Not Applicable (outside the United Kingdom) and
    - X99999999 - Not Known
  - Default Code Z99999999 is no longer required as the NHS Postcode Directory now contains the codes for:
    - S01006506 - S01013481 = Scotland
    - 95AA01S1 - 95ZZ16S2 = Northern Ireland
    - L99999999 = Channel Islands
    - M99999999 = Isle of Man
  - The Format/Length of the item in the NHS Data Model and Dictionary is currently "annnnnnn" but should be "max an9" as the Northern Ireland codes are eight characters.
- ONS Local Government Geography Code (Local Authority District):
  - The NHS Data Model and Dictionary default codes are currently:
    - L99999999 - Channel Island
    - M99999999 - Isle of Man
    - X99999998 - Not Applicable (outside the United Kingdom) and
    - X99999999 - Not Known
  - Default Codes L99999999 and M99999999 are no longer required as the NHS Postcode Directory now contains the codes for:
    - L99999999 = Channel Islands
    - M99999999 = Isle of Man
  - The Format/Length of the item in the NHS Data Model and Dictionary is currently min an3 max an9. This is because the Local Authority District equivalent codes in Northern Ireland were only three characters but have changed since they were included in the NHS Data Model and Dictionary. The Format/Length should be "max an9" to reflect this change.

This Data Dictionary Change Notice (DDCN) introduces new Data Elements:

- LOWER LAYER SUPER OUTPUT AREA (PERSON RESIDENCE)
- ONS LOCAL GOVERNMENT GEOGRAPHIC AREA CODE (LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT)

These new Data Elements:

- Have been agreed with the Data Set Developers affected by this change and the Organisation Data Service (ODS)
- Will link to the NHS Postcode Directory, where the codes are held
- Will replace the existing Data Elements in the next versions of the Data Sets as they are taken through the Standardisation Committee for Care Information (SCCI) process.

Please note that the Organisation Data Service is planning to take a standard through the Standardisation Committee for Care Information (SCCI) process to cover the issuing of the default codes.

This Data Dictionary Change Notice (DDCN) also updates the NHS Postcode Directory (NHSPD) page in the NHS Data Model and Dictionary to remove out of date information and provide links to the "NHSPD User Guide" and "NHSPD Version Notes".

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**

[NHS POSTCODE DIRECTORY](#)

Changed Description

#### **Data Elements**

[LOWER LAYER SUPER OUTPUT AREA \(PERSON RESIDENCE\)](#)

New Data Element

[LOWER LAYER SUPER OUTPUT AREA \(RESIDENCE\)](#)

Changed Description

[ONS LOCAL GOVERNMENT GEOGRAPHIC AREA CODE \(LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT\)](#)

New Data Element

[ONS LOCAL GOVERNMENT GEOGRAPHY CODE \(LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT\)](#)

Changed Description

**Date:** 29 January 2016

**Sponsor:** Peter Counter, Chief Technology Officer, 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.

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### NHS POSTCODE DIRECTORY

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Change to Supporting Information: Changed Description

#### **Background**

- The [NHS Postcode Directory](#) is maintained, on behalf of the [Organisation Data Service](#), by the [Office for National Statistics](#).
- The [NHS Postcode Directory](#):
  - contains a record for every [POSTCODE](#) in the UK, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man

- associates each [POSTCODE](#) with a variety of geographical information, such as grid references and census area codes, and codes for National Health Care Groupings, Higher Level Health Geographies and health commissioning [ORGANISATIONS](#)
- file also includes pseudo [POSTCODES](#) covering default codes and overseas countries.
- Two versions are issued every quarter by the [Organisation Data Service](#):
  - The full [NHS Postcode Directory](#) is restricted to NHS users and users working in direct support of the NHS
  - The less comprehensive [Organisation Data Service](#) reduced [POSTCODE](#) data files are made available to all.
- Users are able to download files through the:
  - [Technology Reference Data Update Distribution Service \(TRUD\)](#) and
  - [Organisation Data Service pages](#) on the [Health and Social Care Information Centre](#) website.
- Full descriptions of the:
  - [NHS Postcode Directory](#) can be found at [Data Supplied by the Office of National Statistics](#)
  - Reduced [POSTCODE](#) data files can be found at [ODS Postcode Files](#).
- The [NHS Postcode Directory](#) (NHSPD) relates both current and terminated [POSTCODES](#) in the United Kingdom to a range of current statutory administrative, electoral, health and other area geographies. It also links [POSTCODES](#) to pre-2002 health areas, 1991 Census enumeration districts (for England and Wales) and both 2001 Census and 2011 Census output areas and super output areas. It helps support the production of area based statistics from postcoded data.
- The [NHS Postcode Directory](#) is produced by ONS Geography, who provide geographic support to the [Office for National Statistics](#) (ONS) and geographic services used by other organisations.
- The [NHS Postcode Directory](#) is issued quarterly.
- The [NHS Postcode Directory](#) User Guide contains information about the [NHS Postcode Directory](#) including:
  - directory content
  - data currency
  - the methodology for assigning areas to [POSTCODES](#)
  - standard names and codes and
  - data quality and limitations.
- A set of Version Notes accompanies each quarterly release of the [NHS Postcode Directory](#). These contain a range of summary statistics and highlight important issues that may affect customers. The Version Notes provide information about postcode reorganisations, administrative and electoral area changes, the introduction of new methodologies and/or geographies and limitations that are specific to a particular release of the [NHS Postcode Directory](#).
- The "NHSPD User Guide" and "NHSPD Version Notes" can be downloaded from:

- The [Technology Reference Data Update Distribution Service \(TRUD\)](#) and
- The [Organisation Data Service](#) pages on the on the [Health and Social Care Information Centre](#) website at: [Data Supplied by the Office of National Statistics](#).

The same descriptions can also be accessed via the [Technology Reference Data Update Distribution Service \(TRUD\)](#):

- The [Office for National Statistics](#) supplies products either as a download free of charge or on CD or DVD in line with the [Office for National Statistics](#) charging policy. For further information see [National Statistics Postcode Products](#).

#### Postcodes

- All [POSTCODES](#) made available via the [Organisation Data Service](#) postcode files have been standardised to the eight character postcode format as used by the Royal Mail's Postal Address File (PAF). All NHS [ORGANISATIONS](#) should ensure that they conform to the [POSTCODE](#) format.

[POSTCODES](#) are of the general format:

| Character Position | 1            | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5     | 6           | 7 | 8 |
|--------------------|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------------|---|---|
| Format             | a            | a/n | a/n | a/n | space | n           | a | a |
| Coding Frame       | Outward Code |     |     |     | space | Inward Code |   |   |

- The coding frame allows the use of digits 0 (zero) to 9 and the use of upper case alpha characters; no special characters are allowed.
- The fifth character of all standard format [POSTCODES](#) is always a space, and separates the outward and inward parts of the [POSTCODE](#). The outward part of the [POSTCODE](#) is left justified and can contain 2, 3 or 4 characters, and is space filled in character positions 3 and 4 where required. The inward part of the [POSTCODE](#) is always 3 characters.

The following table gives examples of typical [POSTCODES](#):

| Character Position |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | Allocated by        | Notes  |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------------|--|
| 1                  | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |                     |  |
| W                  | 9 |   |   |   | 3 | X | X | Royal Mail          |  |
| D                  | A | 1 |   |   | 5 | P | L | Royal Mail          |  |
| M                  | K | 4 | 5 |   | 1 | T | E | Royal Mail          |  |
| Z                  | Z | 9 | 9 |   | 4 | L | Z | <a href="#">ODS</a> | <a href="#">POSTCODES</a> for <a href="#">PATIENTS</a> who are <a href="#">Overseas Visitors</a> |
| Z                  | Z | 9 | 9 |   | 3 | W | Z | <a href="#">ODS</a> | Pseudo <a href="#">POSTCODES</a>   |

#### Related Products

- The [Office for National Statistics](#) produces a version of the [NHS Postcode Directory](#) that is based on a stable area base to facilitate time series analysis – the 1991 based Frozen Postcode Directory. This is available from the [Office for National Statistics](#).
- The [Organisation Data Service](#) issues the two supporting publications which are updated for and included with each quarterly publication of the postcode directories. This ensures that any new customers receive the necessary information.

- The "**NHSPD User Guide**" contains a description of the [NHS Postcode Directory](#) and its content along with information about the methodologies used, data quality and limitations.
- The "**NHS PD Version Notes**" contains a range of summary statistics and highlights important issues that may affect customers.
- Electronic copies are provided through the:
  - Online distribution service [Technology Reference Data Update Distribution Service \(TRUD\)](#) and
  - [Organisation Data Service pages](#) on the [Health and Social Care Information Centre](#) website.

**Changes**

- Requests and suggestions for improvements to the [NHS Postcode Directory](#) or queries relating to its use should be directed to the [Organisation Data Service](#), who are taking the lead on this product on behalf of the NHS.

**LOWER LAYER SUPER OUTPUT AREA (PERSON RESIDENCE)**

Change to Data Element: New Data Element

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Format/Length:  | max an9  |
| National Codes: |  |
| Default Codes:  | X99999998 - Not Applicable (outside the United Kingdom)<br>X99999999 - Not Known |

**Notes:**

**LOWER LAYER SUPER OUTPUT AREA (PERSON RESIDENCE)** is the same as attribute **GEOGRAPHIC AREA CODE** for a **Lower Layer Super Output Area**.

**LOWER LAYER SUPER OUTPUT AREA (PERSON RESIDENCE)** is the **Lower Layer Super Output Area** for where the **PERSON** is resident.

For guidance on the **Lower Layer Super Output Area** codes, see the **NHS Postcode Directory** which can be downloaded from the **Organisation Data Service** website at: **NHSPD User Guide**.

**LOWER LAYER SUPER OUTPUT AREA (RESIDENCE)** will be replaced with **LOWER LAYER SUPER OUTPUT AREA (PERSON RESIDENCE)**, when it has been approved for use in national information standards.

**This data element is also known by these names:**

| Context | Alias   |
|---------|---|
| plural  | LOWER LAYER SUPER OUTPUT AREAS (PERSON RESIDENCE) |

**LOWER LAYER SUPER OUTPUT AREA (PERSON RESIDENCE)**

Change to Data Element: New Data Element

**LOWER LAYER SUPER OUTPUT AREA (PERSON RESIDENCE)**

**Attribute:**

|                             |
|-----------------------------|
| <b>GEOGRAPHIC AREA CODE</b> |
|-----------------------------|

**LOWER LAYER SUPER OUTPUT AREA (RESIDENCE)**

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Change to Data Element: Changed Description

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Format/Length:  | annnnnnnn  |
| National Codes: |  |
| Default Codes:  | Z99999999 - Scotland, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands, Isle of Man<br>X99999998 - Not Applicable (outside the United Kingdom)<br>X99999999 - Not Known |

**Notes:**

[LOWER LAYER SUPER OUTPUT AREA \(RESIDENCE\)](#) is the [Lower Layer Super Output Area](#) for where the [PATIENT](#) is resident

**LOWER LAYER SUPER OUTPUT AREA (RESIDENCE) will be replaced with LOWER LAYER SUPER OUTPUT AREA (PERSON RESIDENCE), when it has been approved for use in national information standards.**

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**ONS LOCAL GOVERNMENT GEOGRAPHIC AREA CODE (LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT)**

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Change to Data Element: New Data Element

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Format/Length:  | max an9  |
| National Codes: |  |
| Default Codes:  | X99999998 - Not Applicable (outside the United Kingdom)<br>X99999999 - Not Known |

**Notes:**

[ONS LOCAL GOVERNMENT GEOGRAPHIC AREA CODE \(LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT\)](#) is the same as attribute [GEOGRAPHIC AREA CODE](#) for a [Local Authority District](#).

For guidance on [Local Authority District](#) codes, see the [NHS Postcode Directory](#) which can be downloaded from the [Organisation Data Service](#) website at: [NHSPD User Guide](#).

**ONS LOCAL GOVERNMENT GEOGRAPHY CODE (LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT) will be replaced with ONS LOCAL GOVERNMENT GEOGRAPHIC AREA CODE (LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT), when it has been approved for use in national information standards.**

**This data element is also known by these names:**

| Context | Alias   |
|---------|---|
| plural  | ONS LOCAL GOVERNMENT GEOGRAPHIC AREA CODES (LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT) |

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**ONS LOCAL GOVERNMENT GEOGRAPHIC AREA CODE (LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT)**

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Change to Data Element: New Data Element

**ONS LOCAL GOVERNMENT GEOGRAPHIC AREA CODE (LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT)**

**Attribute:**

|                                      |
|--------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">GEOGRAPHIC AREA CODE</a> |
|--------------------------------------|

**ONS LOCAL GOVERNMENT GEOGRAPHY CODE (LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT)**

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Change to Data Element: Changed Description

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Format/Length:  | min an3 max an9   |
| National Codes: |   |
| Default Codes:  | L99999999 - Channel Island<br>M99999999 - Isle of Man<br>X99999998 - Not applicable (outside the United Kingdom)<br>X99999999 - Not Known |

**Notes:**

[ONS LOCAL GOVERNMENT GEOGRAPHY CODE \(LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT\)](#) is the same as attribute [GEOGRAPHIC AREA CODE](#) for a [Local Authority District](#). **[ONS LOCAL GOVERNMENT GEOGRAPHY CODE \(LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT\)](#) will be replaced with [ONS LOCAL GOVERNMENT GEOGRAPHIC AREA CODE \(LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT\)](#), when it has been approved for use in national information standards.**

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