



Department
of Health

Workforce Information Architecture (WIA)

The Workforce Minimum Data Set explained

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Workforce Information Architecture (WIA)

The Workforce Minimum Data Set explained

What is it?

- A WIA workstream instigated in 2011 by the Department of Health, the workforce Minimum Data Set is a sub-set of the existing National Workforce Data Set (NWD) standard.
- Its aim is to guarantee continued suitability of arrangements for the collection of workforce information from all providers of NHS-funded services from April 2013.

How did it come about?

- The Health and Social Care Act 2012 places a duty on all organisations that deliver care funded by the NHS to provide data on their current workforce and to share their anticipated future workforce needs.
- It does this through the duty placed on:
 - The Secretary of State to put in place an effective education and training system;
 - Providers of NHS funded care to co-operate within the new education and training system; and
 - Service commissioners, via NHS England and clinical commissioning groups, to ensure that the service providers with whom they contract have regard to education and training when carrying out their functions.

Why is it needed?

- The workforce Minimum Data Set (wMDS) will meet the needs of workforce planners and will enable them to plan and commission the future qualified workforce to meet the needs of local providers.

Who does it affect?

- All providers of NHS-funded services. For ESR users the process is straightforward: each month the HSCIC will automatically extract the wMDS from the ESR data warehouse.

Where can you find the HSCIC's guidance?

- Guidance on the workforce information that providers need to supply and the collection timetable for 2013/14 will be signposted from the following web page: <http://www.hscic.gov.uk/wMDS>

When do you need to do something?

- By 31st July 2013, all interested parties should have checked the above website for the latest information on the wMDS.

Receive regular updates

- If you would like to receive updates whenever changes have been made, sign-up to HSCIC's mailing list by e-mailing enquiries@hscic.gov.uk and stating that your request is for updates on the workforce Minimum Data Set.