

Date: 6 November 2012

To: All Chief Executives in NHS Trusts in England  
All Chief Executives in NHS Foundation Trusts in England  
All Chief Executives in Primary Care Trusts in England  
All Chief Executives in Mental Health Trusts in England  
All Chief Executives in Strategic Health Authorities in England  
All Allied Health Professionals in England

Cc: The Allied Health Professions Federation  
AHP professional bodies  
Directors of Information Technology  
SHA Allied Health Professional Leads

**Gateway reference: 18292**

**Allied Health Professionals Referral to Treatment Data Collection Mandate**

Dear colleague

I am writing to confirm that the Allied Health Professions Referral to Treatment Information Standards Notice (AHP RTT ISN) for inclusion in Commissioning Data Set (CDS) v. 6.2 has now been published and is available on the Information Standards Board website at:

<http://www.isb.nhs.uk/library/release/465>

Voluntary local AHP RTT data collection was encouraged from April 2010. All allied health professionals delivering NHS funded care were encouraged to base their local data collections, local flows and reporting of Allied Health Professions Referral to Treatment data on the CDS structure.

The CDS v6.2 Information Standards Notice was published on 6 September 2012, together with the requirement for general and acute providers to collect RTT data for AHPs. The new CDS data, including AHP RTT data, will start to flow from April 2013. This is dependent on providers migrating to version CDS 6.2. It should be noted that the requirement to include AHP RTT data in CDS v6.2 does not alter, and is in addition to the existing requirement to submit consultant-led RTT data.

AHP RTT data will also be included in version five of the Mental Health Minimum Data Set, to enable calculation of AHP RTT periods across all care

settings. The MHMDS v5 Information Standards Notice (ISN) is planned to be published in October 2013, with the mandate of AHP RTT data from October 2014. CIDS AHP RTT data can be collected on a voluntary basis from October 2013, and will be mandated from April 2014. It should be noted that these dates are still subject to change.

Referral to treatment waiting times are key indicators of service performance and patient experience and require data to be collected consistently according to national standards. These were set out in the 'Allied Health Professional Referral to Treatment Guide' (DH, 2010) and the revised guide (DH, 2011), to support benchmarking and provide information to support patient choice. The revised guide is available at :

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_131948](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_131948)

The AHP Service Improvement Project (SIP) (DH, 2011) used AHP RTT as a tool to enable AHPs to identify the focus for service improvement and develop local solutions. Further information on the SIP is available at :

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_126840](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_126840)

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "K Middleton".

Karen Middleton CBE  
Chief Health Professions Officer