

Maternity and Children's Data Sets (MCDS) FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

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Revision History

Version	Date	Summary of Changes
1.0	21/7/2015	Initial version
1.1	21/7/2015	Minor changes following review by Nicholas Richman

Glossary of Terms

Term / Abbreviation	What it stands for
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
CYPHS	Children and Young People's Health Services
ISN	Information Standards Notice
MCDS	Maternity and Children's Data Sets
NSF	The National Service Framework
SCCI	Standardisation Committee for Care Information

Contents

Introduction	4
What are the Maternity and Children's Data Sets?	4
What is the scope of the data set?	4
Will we need to change our way of working?	4
What will the data set deliver?	5
Is the data set mandated?	5
How will the data be collected nationally?	5
How do we implement the data set?	6
Are System Suppliers required to implement the changes required by the standards?	6
Do we need to obtain patient consent to submit their data?	6
What if our systems cannot capture all of the data?	6

Introduction

What are the Maternity and Children's Data Sets?

The Maternity and Children's Data Sets (MCDS) have been specifically developed for all NHS commissioned Maternity, Children and Young People's Health Services and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services as a key driver to achieving better outcomes of care for mothers, babies and children. It comprises three separate information standards for (i) Maternity Services, (ii) Children's and Young People's Health Services, and (iii) Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.

As a 'secondary uses' data set, it re-uses clinical and operational data for purposes other than direct patient care, such as commissioning, clinical audit, research, service planning and performance management at both local and national level. It will provide comparative, mother, child and young people-centric data that will be used to improve clinical quality and service efficiency, and to commission services in a way that improves health and reduces inequalities.

What is the scope of the data set?

The Information Standard Notices (ISN) published as part of the MCDS Project apply to all NHS funded Maternity, Community based Child Health and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services in England, including private services commissioned by the NHS.

The MCDS comprises of the following three individual data sets:

- Maternity Services Data Set (MSDS):
www.hscic.gov.uk/maternityandchildren/maternity
- Children and Young People's Health Services (CYPHS) data set:
www.hscic.gov.uk/maternityandchildren/CYPHS
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) data set:
www.hscic.gov.uk/CAMHS

The CAMHS data set has recently been combined with the Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Data Set (MHLDDS) forming the new Mental Health Services Data Set (MHSDS):
www.hscic.gov.uk/mhsds

Will we need to change our way of working?

The standards have received full approval from the Standardisation Committee for Care Information and the ISNs have been published here:

Maternity Services Data Set (MSDS):
<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/isce/publication/isb1513>

Children and Young People's Health Services (CYPHS) data set:
<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/isce/publication/scci1069>

Mental Health Services Data Set (MHSDS):
<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/isce/publication/SCCI0011>

The standards represent 'output specifications' that define how data should be submitted by NHS commissioned or provided services to a central data warehouse. NHS services will have the flexibility to adopt any local data collection process and employ whichever IT system that is capable of extracting data in accordance with the output specification.

What will the data set deliver?

The data set will deliver robust, comprehensive, nationally consistent and comparable person-based information on mothers, children and young people in contact with Maternity, Community based Child Health and Child and Adolescent Mental Health services.

The information from the data is made available to commissioners, providers and other bodies. The information will be used to:

- Record, compare and improve outcomes and safety
- Improve clinical quality and service efficiency, thereby avoiding the adverse health consequences of poor services
- Commission services in a way that improves health and reduces inequalities
- Improve accountability by providing comparative information to service users to support choice and to enable them to influence how services are developed
- Provide activity data on which to base mandatory tariffs for currency calculation
- Support regulation
- Increase the understanding and dissemination of best practice based on sound comparators
- Underpin the improvement of local information systems to meet data set standards

Is the data set mandated?

Yes, the three data sets have received full approval from the Standardisation Committee for Care Information (SCCI) as information standards for the NHS in England.

How will the data be collected nationally?

The standards represent 'output specifications' that define how data should be submitted by NHS commissioned or provided services to a central data warehouse. NHS services will have the flexibility to adopt any local data collection process and employ whichever IT system that is capable of extracting data in accordance with the output specification.

How do we implement the data set?

Implementation guidance is published on the SCCI website, see links above.

Further information and access to all documentation, is available from the Health and Social Care Information Centre website www.hscic.gov.uk/maternityandchildren.

Are System Suppliers required to implement the changes required by the standards?

Yes. Suppliers of clinical systems are specifically cited in the ISN along with their conformance requirements under standard. See the SCCI website for specific details, using the links provided above.

Do we need to obtain patient consent to submit their data?

Further information on patient consent can be found on the maternity webpage and associated guidance document.

What if our systems cannot capture all of the data?

You must make all efforts to capture as much of the data as possible in line with the relevant information standard(s) and corresponding output data set specification(s). However, as there is no funding provision for you to amend your processes and/or systems, you only need to submit the data that you can capture.

Gaps in data provision should be discussed with the commissioner of the affected services as they will receive an extract of the data the care providers submit and will need to understand and account for gaps in data coverage.