	Secondary Uses Service (SUS)				
	Programme	NPFIT		Briefing Note	
	Sub-Prog / Project	Secondary Uses Services			
	Prog. Director	Jeremy Thorp			
	Owner	Simon Heathfield		Version	1.2
	Author	Simon Heathfield			
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Commissioning Data Set (CDS) Inbound Migration to XML

1. Introduction

In October 2004 DSCN 24/2004 was released with the following purpose

"... This DSCN is to provide notification to providers and suppliers of the introduction of XML messages and Record Identifiers for Commissioning Data Set (CDS) and Mental Health MDS (MHMDS) data flows."

The DSCN included target dates that have since been withdrawn (XML Messaging update – 27 June 2005). This document provides NHS and independent organisations with an overview of the revised plan including new target dates.

This plan is concerned with *inbound* messages, from healthcare providers to SUS. Support for outbound information is part of a separate workstream. Outbound messages will not use XML format, further details of outbound flows are available from the SUS website.

The CDS dataset provides a means of transferring information between service providers and commissioners. Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) and Payment by Results (PbR) reporting are based on the CDS dataflow.

At present CDS data is transferred from health service providers to the NHS Wide Clearing Service (NWCS) - commercially known as ClearNet - using CDS-EDIFACT. The NWCS service is being replaced by the Secondary Uses Service (SUS) which will employ XML as the preferred data format. From July 2006 SUS will accept data in CDS-XML format and from January 2007 SUS will cease to accept EDIFACT data. Thus providers must plan to migrate from EDIFACT to XML between these dates.

Further detailed information describing the migration process will be published on the SUS website

<http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/delivery/programmes/sus/implementation/xml/>.

2. XML and XTS

XML is a text based mark-up language for encoding structured information, it allows consistent error checking based on a data definition expressed in an XML *schema*. XML is replacing the existing EDIFACT messaging system in order to meet Government standards in line with the e-Government Interoperability Framework (e-gif) requirements.

The XML Transfer Service (XTS) is the NCRS application, developed by BT that users will use to submit CDS-XML data to SUS. It is a simple interactive web application that allows users to *validate* CDS-XML files (check that XML messages conform to the CDS-XML schema) and *validate and send* CDS-XML files (check the file and transmit to SUS). XTS does not allow users to submit non-validated files to SUS.

3. Who is affected?

All organisations that submit CDS data to the English NHS are affected. This will include all organisations providing health care services to the NHS in England and those helping support CDS data flows, for example:

- NHS Trusts that provide any commissioned services.
- Independent Healthcare Providers commissioned by the NHS.
- Local Service Providers (LSP).
- EDIFACT/XML Translation Service Providers.

4. What is included?

The migration involves all CDS data types except 210 Ward Attenders which was decommissioned by DSCN 32/2004. The current version of the CDS-XML schema set is 4.2a and it is this that XTS will initially support.

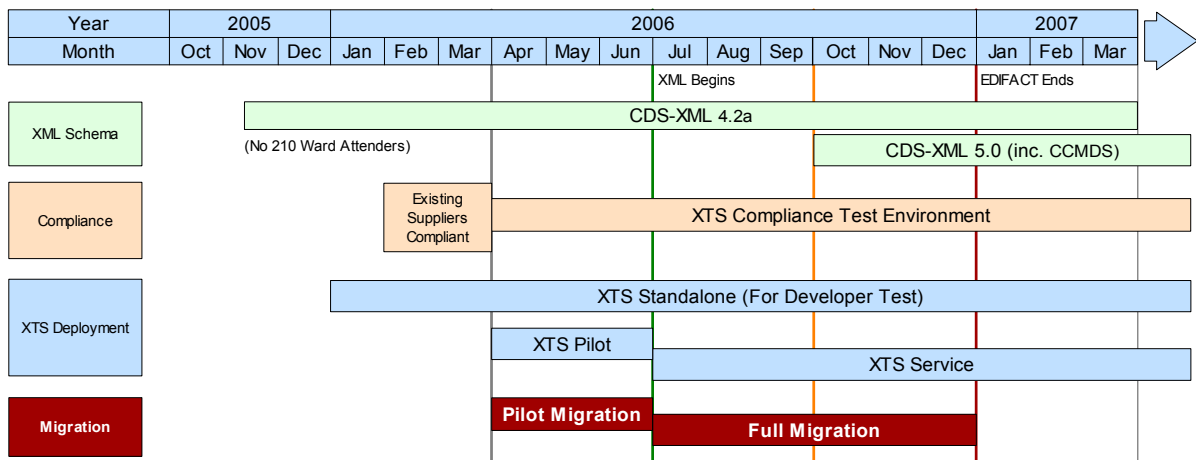
The migration period coincides with the introduction of the Critical Care Minimum Dataset (CCMDS) introduced by DSCN 02/2005. CDS-XML schema version 5.0 will support CCMDS and will be introduced into live service in October 2006. There will be no support for CCMDS in EDIFACT format so trusts must move to XML before CCMDS data may be submitted. Support for version 4.2a of the XML schemas will cease in March 2007.

The migration to XML of the Mental Health Minimum Dataset (MHMDS) is being run in parallel and further details of this will be issued shortly. The MHMDS schemas are available from the NHSIA data standards website.

5. When will changes occur?

Figure 1 provides a timeline of the migration including the introduction of version 5.0 of the XML schema supporting the CCMDS. CDS providers must plan for migration between July and December 2006. A small number of data suppliers will be involved in the pilot migration between April and June 2006.

Figure 1. The CDS-XML Migration Timeline



6. What changes do I need to make?

All organisations will be required to submit its data in the new XML format. To do this your organisation will need to be able to create XML messages and deliver them using the XML Transfer Service (XTS).

XTS is part of the NHS Care Records Service (NCRS) application so the pre-requisites for its use are:

- Access to the NHS Network.
- XTS must be added to the appropriate users NCRS profile by your Registration Authority.
- In addition, XTS requires a registered notification email address (see section 8).

In order to submit CDS-XML data a provider must be in a position to submit *conformant* CDS-XML messages.

A conformant CDS-XML message must comply with the published standards which are available on the Internet:

- The CDS manual (version 1.7) available from www.nhsia.nhs.uk/datastandards/pages/cds_manual.asp.
- The data dictionary descriptions are available from www.nhsia.nhs.uk/datastandards/pages/dd/web_site_content/pages/overviews/cds_hes_contextual.asp
- The XML schemas are available from <http://www.nhsia.nhs.uk/datastandards/pages/schemas.asp>
- Data Set Change Notices (DSCN) where changes to the definitions are documented are available from <http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/dscn/>

Trusts should work to implement the above standards and ensure that data within the originating systems (e.g. PAS) are consistent with the data requirements of CDS returns.

Provider organisations must ensure that the systems they use to produce CDS returns in XML format have been successfully tested by CFH. Trusts should only use a compliant translation service provider, or facilities provided by their LSP. For further information, please contact: Neil Kenworthy (CFH Existing Systems Programme) neil.kenworthy@cfh.nhs.uk.

7. Data Quality Issues

The submission of CDS data to SUS has raised the profile of data quality as an issue of major importance. Within the SUS project, a programme of work to improve data quality has been initiated to support the immediate needs raised by SUS and Payment by Results (PbR). This has provided support for processing data into SUS, and there has been direct liaison with trusts to resolve difficulties with loading data onto the system.

In addition, detailed guidance papers have been published on the SUS web site. Organisations should refer to the paper published on 14 October 2005 on general data quality advice, and on 5 December 2005 within the 'SUS Progress Update' giving guidance on the correct use of recipient codes.

- http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/delivery/programmes/sus/docs/npfit_ncr_des_0964_01_susdataquality.pdf
- http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/delivery/programmes/sus/docs/data_quality_guidance.pdf

Organisations should follow up the guidance issued to date if they have not already done so, and take note of all subsequent notices on data quality issues that will be provided to support the migration to XML.

The programme of work to improve data will ultimately extend more widely across health and social care information.

8. Registering with SUS

In order to submit CDS-XML data you must be a registered SUS user. The SUS/PbR registration process allows users to register as a 'Sender', 'Recipient' or 'Both'. To submit data you must be registered as a 'Sender' or 'Both' and complete the 'Contact for Message Rejection' section. Registration forms are available from the SUS website <http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/delivery/programmes/sus/orgreg>. Your organisation may have already registered in order to support PbR reporting.

Details of the Spine Business Functions necessary to gain access to XTS will be published on the SUS website as soon as they are available.

9. XML Translation Service Suppliers

Table 1 lists suppliers who have confirmed their intent to develop their existing systems to achieve SUS compliance.

Table 1. XML Translation Service Suppliers

Supplier	Contact
Anglia Healthcare Systems	Oak Lodge, School Lane, Little Melton, Norfolk, NR9 3LB. http://www.ahsl.com/index.htm
Ardentia Limited	Ardentia House, Staffordshire Technology Park, Stafford, ST18 0LQ. http://www.ardentia.co.uk
Burns	Mansion House, Manchester Road, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 4RJ. http://www.burnsecs.com
Cambridge DT	The Granary, Park End, Swaffham Bullbeck, Cambridgeshire, CB5 0NA. http://www.cdt.co.uk
Indigo4	Aizlewoods Mill, Nursery Street, Sheffield, S3 8GG. http://www.indigo4.com
Iuvo Ltd	The Business Centre, Edward Street, Redditch, Worcestershire, B97 6HA. http://www.iuvo.co.uk
McKesson	European Headquarters, Warwick Technology Park, Warwick, CV34 6NZ. http://www.mckesson.co.uk
NHS Connecting for Health (formerly NHAIS)	Hexagon House, Pynes Hill, Exeter, Devon, EX2 5SE. http://www.nhsia.nhs.uk/nhais/pages/
The Sollis Partnership Ltd	Eclipse House, 26 West Hill, Epsom, Surrey, KT19 8JD. www.sollis.co.uk