

# NHS Data Model and Dictionary



**Type:** Data Dictionary Change Notice  
**Reference:** 1911  
**Version No:** 1.0  
**Subject:** Note added to Priority Type Attribute  
**Effective Date:** Immediate  
**Reason for Change:** Addition of note  
**Publication Date:** 7 May 2024

## Background:

Changes to cancer waiting times standards were agreed between NHS England and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), see [Changes to cancer waiting times standards from 1 October 2023](#).

This Data Dictionary Change Notice (DDCN) adds a note to the Priority Type Attribute to provide a link to the information regarding the changes and guidance on recording of the data item.

A short demonstration is available which describes "How to Read an NHS Data Model and Dictionary Change Request", in an easy to understand screen capture including a voice over and readable captions. This demonstration can be viewed at: [https://datadictionary.nhs.uk/elearning/change\\_request/index.html](https://datadictionary.nhs.uk/elearning/change_request/index.html).

Note: if the web page does not open, please copy the link and paste into the web browser. A guide to how to use the demonstration can be found at: [Demonstrations](#).

## Summary of changes:

### Attribute Definitions

[PRIORITY TYPE](#) Changed Description

**Date:** 7 May 2024

**Sponsor:** Tomas Sanchez Lopez, Director Technology and Data Integration, Data and Analytics, NHS England

**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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## PRIORITY TYPE

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Change to Attribute: Changed Description

The priority of a [SERVICE REQUEST](#).

In the case of [SERVICES](#) to be provided by a [CONSULTANT](#), it is as assessed by or on behalf of the [CONSULTANT](#).

- [PRIORITY TYPE](#) National Code 'Urgent' should be used where the [SERVICE REQUEST](#) is defined as clinically urgent, but it does not fall under the criteria for 'Two Week Wait' (see below).
- [PRIORITY TYPE](#) National Code 'Two Week Wait' should be used where either:
  - the [SERVICE REQUEST](#) meets the criteria for an urgent referral for suspected cancer.  
~~These referrals should be made in accordance with the [National Institute for Health and Care Excellence \(NICE\)](#) clinical guidelines on referral for suspected cancer. For further information, see the [National Institute for Health and Care Excellence](#) website at: [NICE guidance](#).~~
  - or**
  - the [PATIENT](#) has been referred urgently for breast symptoms, but the referral does not meet the criteria for urgent referrals for suspected cancer.
- [PRIORITY TYPE](#) National Code 'Two Week Wait' should be used where either:
  - the [SERVICE REQUEST](#) meets the criteria for an urgent referral for suspected cancer.  
These referrals should be made in accordance with the [National Institute for Health and Care Excellence \(NICE\)](#) clinical guidelines on referral for suspected cancer. For further information, see the [National Institute for Health and Care Excellence](#) website at: [Suspected cancer: recognition and referral](#).
  - or**
  - the [PATIENT](#) has been referred urgently for breast symptoms, but the referral does not meet the criteria for urgent referrals for suspected cancer.

Note: Changes to cancer waiting times standards from 1 October 2023 were announced by [NHS England](#) at: [Changes to cancer waiting times standards from 1 October 2023](#). Until changes to the [PRIORITY TYPE](#) data item are made to support this change, National Code

'Two Week Wait' should continue to be used by Health Care Providers, to record the PRIORITY TYPE for REFERRAL REQUESTS which fall under the new Faster Diagnosis provisions.

*National Codes:*

- 1 Routine
- 2 Urgent
- 3 Two Week Wait

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For enquiries about this Change Request, please email [information.standards@nhs.net](mailto:information.standards@nhs.net)

