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| **Standard** | **Definitions, Reference Files and Standards for National Data** |
| Origin of Standard | Data Management Service Area, Public Health & intelligence (PHI) |
| NSS author | Scott Heald ([scott.heald@nhs.net](mailto:scott.heald@nhs.net)) |
| Date | 22nd February 2018 |
| Next Update | February 2020 |

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| **What is the purpose of this standard?** |
| In order to quantify, compare, contrast and re-use healthcare information in a meaningful way at a national level, data must be recorded using recognised healthcare data standards, definitions, classifications and terminologies. The information produced from these data can then be used to support strategic decision making which will improve the health of the people of Scotland and support a timely, effective, safe and efficient healthcare service.  National Data Standards are essential in order for the health and healthcare data held by NSS to be of high quality. They ensure that the data are collected throughout Scotland according to the same classifications and rules and the data is interchanged between systems consistently, robustly and securely. |

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| **Who is this standard aimed at?** |
| This standard is aimed at anyone involved in the development, collection and analysis of national data, including clinicians, project and information managers, clinical coding staff, administrators, healthcare researchers, information analysts and software developers. |

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| **How do I access this standard?** |
| Data Standards encompass a range of products and tools which include National Data Definitions and National Reference Files. These are available on the ISD website at:  <http://www.isdscotland.org/Products-and-Services/Data-Definitions-and-References/>  Products include:  [National Data Catalogue [Opens in new window](http://www.ndc.scot.nhs.uk/National-Datasets/index.asp)](http://www.ndc.scot.nhs.uk/National-Datasets/index.asp) The National Data Catalogue (NDC) details the full list of datasets that are held by ISD. Further information on each of the datasets is available by selecting the dataset name using either the A-Z or the dataset groupings in the left hand bar. The NDC also incorporates the ISD Data Dictionary.  [Data Dictionary](http://www.ndc.scot.nhs.uk/Dictionary-A-Z/) [Opens in new window](http://www.ndc.scot.nhs.uk/National-Datasets/index.asp)The Data Dictionary is the main online source for health and social care data definitions and standards in Scotland.  [Definitions and Reference Files Service](http://www.isdscotland.org/Products-and-Services/Data-Definitions-and-References/) - provides an advisory service to NHS Scotland on the interpretation and application of the definitions, codes and recording rules. |