

National Interim Clinical Imaging Procedure (NICIP) Code Set

Release Covering Letter

April 2014 Release – Version 15

The April 2014 release (Version 15.0) of the National Interim Clinical Imaging Procedure (NICIP) code set is available from the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) from the 1st April 2014. The NICIP code set is intended for use in all Clinical Imaging Department information systems.

The NICIP code set has been approved by the Information Standards Board for Health and Social Care (ISB) and is mandated for all in-scope use cases (DSCN 27/2009). Each organisation using the NICIP code set is required to update to the most recent version within 2 months of its release date. For further information visit:
<http://www.isb.nhs.uk/library/standard/125>.

The NICIP codes (with or without SNOMED CT mappings) are only available from the Technology Reference-data Update Distribution (TRUD) service. Further information and related documentation is available at <http://systems.hscic.gov.uk/data/uktc/imaging>, and a link to the TRUD service is also available at this address. Registration is required prior to downloading products from the website. In circumstances where customers are unable to access the TRUD service due to licensing restrictions, please contact the Information Standards Service Desk for further assistance (information.standards@hscic.gov.uk).

Please note that there is a break in consecutive numbering of the NICIP releases on TRUD. The October 2012 (version 12) NICIP release was numbered DIAGIMG_11.0.0_20121001000001. The April 2013 (version 13) NICIP release was numbered DIAGIMG_15.0.0_20130401000001, bringing it into line with the main terminology release files numbering sequence.

All procedures within the NICIP code set have a direct map to a SNOMED CT concept. New content, new SNOMED CT mappings, replaced and retired procedure codes are listed additionally on the spreadsheet in separate tabs to highlight the changes for ease of use (see NICIP Implementation Guidance documentation Appendix for the format of these tabs). Specific questions regarding the reason for deprecation of a NICIP code should be directed to information.standards@hscic.gov.uk.

In each release some NICIP descriptions or associated data may be modified as the code set regularly undergoes quality assurance review processes. For minor changes, the NICIP

codes associated with these procedures are not replaced by new codes as there has been no change to the meaning of the code.

Associated editorial principles documentation is available with the NICIP release files and is also downloadable at <http://systems.hscic.gov.uk/data/uktc/imaging>.

A mapping table (Version 10) from diagnostic imaging codes to OPCS-4.7 is also available. The first release of this table was in October 2009, and the current release is still a **test product**. The UK Terminology Centre (UKTC) of the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) are consulting with stakeholders to determine whether the National Interim Clinical Imaging Procedures (NICIP) to OPCS-4 mapping table is being used in the production of data to inform the Payment by Results (PbR) data in the field of Clinical Imaging. The consultation is intended to inform the decision making process and plans to adjust the mapping table to meet user requirements.

In the meantime it is highly recommended that the mapping table is subjected to local validation and assessment processes prior to use, although it has been reviewed by clinical imaging and coding experts. Feedback from any local validation/test use is welcome, and can be submitted via the Information Standards Service Desk at information.standards@hscic.gov.uk.

The mapping table is part of the national release of the NICIP code set. It is only available from the Technology Reference data Update Distribution (TRUD) service and can be obtained electronically by registering on line via the TRUD link at <http://systems.hscic.gov.uk/data/uktc/imaging>.

For clinical safety reasons it is **strongly recommended** that users update the full NICIP code set, rather than extracts from it, to prevent inconsistencies when receiving information from other organisations. This action will also prevent issues arising where there have been small changes made to some representations, such as capitalisation, without retiring the code. Users should also note that reliance on the short code to identify a procedure represents a clinical risk. Short codes must always be checked in conjunction with the 40 character description to ensure that the correct NICIP code has been utilised. The detail of minor changes contained within this release of the NICIP code set is available on request via the Information Standards Service Desk (information.standards@hscic.gov.uk).

Key statistics for this release

Total number of procedure codes with history: 10512

Active procedure codes: 4206

New SNOMED CT mapping: 20

New procedure codes: 124

Replaced procedure codes: 4

Retired procedure codes: 0

The NICIP code set is available in four variants in two separate spreadsheets:

- 1) With maps to SNOMED CT and with limited term history information

This version is for those organisations that are migrating from a previous version of the list and use the data in an integrated environment (with systems using SNOMED CT).

2) Without maps to SNOMED CT but with limited term history information

This version is for those organisations that are migrating from a previous version of the list and do not use the data in an integrated environment (with systems using SNOMED CT).

3) A simple list of the latest current descriptions without SNOMED CT mappings and without term history information

This version is for those organisations using the list for the first time that do not use the data in an integrated environment (with systems using SNOMED CT).

4) A simple list of the latest current descriptions with SNOMED CT mappings and without term history information

This version is for those organisations using the list for the first time that use the data in an integrated environment (with systems using SNOMED CT).

The NICIP code set has been delivered to strict editorial principles and is supplied in the form of both a spreadsheet and a tab delimited text file with accompanying implementation guidance. It is strongly recommended that users read the associated NICIP code set implementation guidance and editorial principles. The editorial principles and the implementation guidance highlight issues that may be informative to users including how to make requests for change. Further information regarding requests for additions or changes can be found in the frequently asked questions available by visiting:
<http://systems.hscic.gov.uk/data/uktc/imaging>

Further guidance may be obtained by contacting the Information Standards Service Desk (information.standards@hscic.gov.uk) – please include the words ‘Diagnostic Imaging’ in any enquiry.

Future releases

The next release of the NICIP code set will be in October 2014 and thereafter every six months to coincide with the update schedule of SNOMED CT. Any requests for change and supporting information will need to be received well in advance of that date if they are to be considered for inclusion.

Background

On January 26th 2007 a set of procedure codes and descriptions for use in the representation of Clinical Imaging Procedures was released by the UK Terminology Centre (UKTC - then part of NHS Connecting for Health). Following a period of organisational change, the UKTC has been hosted by the HSCIC since April 2013.

The work has been overseen and endorsed by a management group consisting of key stakeholders including the following:

- Royal College of Radiologists
- Including numerous RCR special interest groups
- British Nuclear Medicine Society
- British Medical Association

- Royal College of General Practitioners
- Society of Radiographers
- Department of Health
- NHS Connecting for Health (now HSCIC)
- Regional NHS representatives
- System suppliers
- Representatives of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland