



British Association for Sexual Health and HIV

Established 2003 through the merger of MSSVD (est. 1922) and AGUM (est. 1992)

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Dear BASHH member,

Consultation on proposed revisions to the national KC60 codes

Recent developments in sexual health and feedback from BASHH members have prompted the Health Protection Agency to work with the BASHH Information Group to propose revisions to the national KC60 diagnostic and service codes. The proposed revisions aim to better reflect national data collection requirements taking into account: developments in treatment such as the availability of an HPV vaccine; developments in service delivery; and changes in data flow, for example, through GUMCAD.

Summary of proposed revisions to KC60 codes

- The number of codes has been reduced from 60 to 58.
- Some of the more complex code groups have been amalgamated or simplified. This includes the removal of the 'E' codes and their replacement with a simpler 'H' code system.
- Service provision codes have been revised and expanded to enable monitoring of different levels of sexual health screen, partner notification, PEPSI and Hepatitis B and HPV vaccination courses.
- New codes have been introduced to enable monitoring of services for prisoners and sex workers.
- The use of suffixes to certain KC60 codes has been introduced to enable differentiation of rectal infections, infections diagnosed previously elsewhere, and use of the quadrivalent HPV vaccine.

The proposals have been made in consultation with a sub-group of the BASHH Information group. However as the proposed changes are far more comprehensive than any previous changes it is vitally important that as many people as possible have the opportunity to consider and comment on these proposals. To achieve this, the proposals will be presented at the next BASHH OGM on Friday 12th June at 4pm and we would encourage as many people as possible to attend. Of course if anyone is unable to attend we will accept comments via e-mail to Gwenda Hughes or Mary Poulton (contact details below).

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To facilitate discussion the proposed changes, with definitions included for clarity, are being circulated with this letter. Also attached are some specific questions which we would like you to consider along with these proposals. Please take time to read these and consider the questions prior to the meeting. Often the temptation is to add more and more data items, but it is important to remember that these codes are meant for national use, so one should consider the utility of collecting data nationally when considering adding further codes. It is still acceptable to use 'local' codes if there are additional things that individual services want to collect, with appropriate mapping back to a national code for data returns. One issue to consider would be the agreement of some standard local codes, which would not be collected on a regular basis nationally, but could be useful for audit and research purposes.

We look forward to seeing you on 12th June.

Yours Sincerely

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