5th June 2015

VASS checks 50601 and 51607 decommissioned

DSCN 2014/07 was recently issued to describe changes to be made to Main Specialty (Consultant) with effect from 1st April 2015. The data sets affected by the DSCN are APC, OP and OPR.

As a result, it was decided that the Main Specialty (Consultant) data item was no longer needed for analysis purposes in APC, OP and OPR, because the Treatment Function Code should be used when analysing data by specialty. It was felt that there was therefore no need to continue checking the consistency of Main Specialty (Consultant) against the Consultant Code data item.

The data item does however still need to be submitted as it is used for deriving HRG codes. The data validity check on the Main Specialty (Consultant) data item will therefore remain.

Currently there are data consistency checks in VASS which validate that the Consultant Code and the Main Specialty (Consultant) code submitted in APC and OP are consistent with the reference data files within NRDS. These will be retired along with the associated data quality indicators. There is no such check relating to the OPR data set.

Here are the VASS checks that are being retired:
- 50601: Inconsistent Consultant Code / Main Specialty (Consultant) [APC]
- 51607: Inconsistent Consultant Code / Main Specialty (Consultant) [OP]