



Medicines & Healthcare products
Regulatory Agency



National Radiotherapy Dataset (RTDS) Data Dictionary

Version 4.0

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Documentation Control Sheet

Over time, it may be necessary to issue amendments or clarifications to parts of this document. This form must be updated whenever changes are made.

Version	Affected Areas Summary of Change	Prepared By	Reviewed By
1.0	First CPRD-NCRAS-RTDS data release for set 16.	Rachael Williams	Eleanor Yelland
2.0	Updated for set 17	Helen Booth	Eleanor Yelland
3.0	Updated for set 18	Sonia Coton	Eleanor Yelland
4.0	Updated for set 19	Hilary Shepherd	Eleanor Yelland

Version 1.0

- First version

Version 2.0

- Updated for set 17

Version 3.0

- Updated for set 18

Version 4.0

- Updated for set 19

National Radiotherapy Dataset Data Dictionary

Radiotherapy episodes

A radiotherapy episode is a continuous period of care for radiotherapy (from start to finish) including all preparation, planning and delivery of treatment as covered in the treatment intention. Treatment given concurrently or consecutively to multiple anatomical sites associated with the same primary tumour will form part of the same radiotherapy episode. If the treatment plan changes during treatment (e.g. because a new symptom arises which also requires radiotherapy) then all the treatment delivered concurrently or consecutively will form part of the same episode. Treatment given to separate unrelated primary tumour sites will form separate episodes.

Radiotherapy prescriptions

A radiotherapy prescription specifies a radiotherapy field arrangement, dose and fractionation for treatment to an 'ICRU-like' reference point. The details of each prescription of radiotherapy being given at an attendance are provided in the prescription table.

Radiotherapy exposure

A radiotherapy exposure is the delivery of one treatment field as part of a fraction of radiotherapy. The details of each radiotherapy exposure being delivered at an attendance are provided in the exposure table.

1. Radiotherapy Episode

Variable	Variable name	Description	Field type	Valid Content
CPRD patient identifier	e_patid	Unique patient identifier in CPRD	ID	Number
CR patient identifier	e_cr_patid	Unique patient identifier based on NCRAS data	ID	Number
Episode identifier	radiotherapyepisodeid	Unique radiotherapy episode identifier	ID	Maximum length 50
Attendance identifier	attendid	Unique identifier for each radiotherapy appointment (used to link to subsequent tables)	ID	Maximum length 12
Appointment date	apptdate	Date when the patient is to be seen by care professional	DATE	ddmmyyyy
Decision to treat date	decisiontotreatdate	Date on which it was decided that the patient required specific planned cancer treatment. This is the date that the consultation between the patient and the clinician took place and planned cancer treatment was agreed.	DATE	ddmmyyyy
Earliest clinically appropriate date (ECAD)	earliestclinappropriatedate	This is the first date that the patient would have been available to start radiotherapy. The same as the DECISION TO TREAT DATE unless there was an elective delay, i.e. a clinical reason, such as the patient was not fit.	DATE	ddmmyyyy
Radiotherapy priority	radiotherapypriority	The priority for this course of therapy as classified by the requesting clinician	TEXT	E = Emergency (treatment required within 24 hours), U = Urgent (including the Royal College of Radiologists Category I), R = Routine (including the Royal College of Radiologists Category II), D = Delay
Radiotherapy	treatmentstartdate	The start of a stay, an episode, period	DATE	ddmmyyyy

treatment start date		covered by a plan or other time period. This may be used to calculate the length of the period, or to classify by financial year or other time-based criterion.		
Radiotherapy diagnosis (ICD-10 code)	radiotherapydiagnosisicd	The primary tumour diagnosis code of patients with cancer, or the main condition being treated during the episode of radiotherapy for non-cancer diagnoses	TEXT	TEXT
Radiotherapy treatment intent	radiotherapyintent	Intent of the delivered beam radiation	TEXT	01 = Palliative, 02 = Anti-cancer (radical), 03 = Other, 99 = Unknown (not recorded)

2. Radiotherapy Prescription

Variable	Variable name	Description	Field type	Valid Content
CR patient identifier	e_cr_patid	Unique patient identifier based on NCRAS data	ID	Number
Attendance identifier	attendid	Unique attendance identifier for each radiotherapy appointment	ID	Maximum length 12
Radiotherapy prescription identifier	prescriptionid	A unique identifier for each radiotherapy prescription	ID	Maximum length 50
Radiotherapy treatment region	rttreatmentregion	The specific area to be treated with radiotherapy.	TEXT	The specific area to be treated with radiotherapy. P = Primary PR = Primary and Regional nodes R = Regional nodes A = Non-anatomically specific primary site O = Prophylactic M = Mets
Radiotherapy anatomical treatment site	rttreatmentanatomicalsite	The part of the body to which the radiotherapy actual dose is administered. Only complete where the treatment region is A, O or M. OPCS Z codes	TEXT	Maximum length 4
Number of teletherapy fields	numberofteletherapyfields	Prescribed number of fields of a teletherapy treatment course	NUMBER	Maximum length 2
Radiotherapy prescribed dose	rtprescribeddose	Total prescribed absorbed radiation dose in Grays.	NUMBER	Maximum length 3.2
Prescribed number of fractions	prescribedfractions	Prescribed number of fractions or hyperfractionation of a teletherapy treatment course administered.	NUMBER	Maximum length 3
Radiotherapy actual dose	rtactualdose	The total actual absorbed radiation dose given in Grays (Gy). This variable may be omitted from all but the ultimate fraction for this prescription.	NUMBER	Maximum length 3.2

Actual number of fractions	rtactualfractions	Total number of fractions of hyperfractionation of a teletherapy treatment course administered. This variable may be omitted from all but the ultimate fraction for this prescription.	NUMBER	Maximum length 3
Radiotherapy treatment modality	rttreatmentmodality	Type of treatment delivered during a radiotherapy prescription	TEXT	05 = Teletherapy, 06 = Brachytherapy

3. Radiotherapy Exposures

Variable	Variable name	Description	Field Type	Valid Content
CR patient identifier	e_cr_patid	Unique patient identifier based on NCRAS data	ID	Number
Attendance identifier	attendid	Unique attendance identifier for each radiotherapy appointment	ID	Maximum length 12
Field identifier	radiotherapyfieldid	Unique identifier for each radiotherapy exposure	ID	Maximum length 50
Machine identifier	machineid	Pseudonymised code ascribed to the radiotherapy equipment used to treat this exposure. The original identifier is made up of: (a) five character NACs site code (Rxxxx), (b) two character equipment type code (LA/CO/KV/OT), (c) four digit unique sequence number (issued by RTDS). This version is pseudonymised.	TEXT	Maximum length 12
Radioactive isotope	radioisotope	The type of radioactive source used to deliver radiotherapy with brachytherapy. Records the isotope in standard scientific notation (e.g. I123 or Ir192)	TEXT	Maximum length 6
Radiotherapy beam type	radiotherapybeamtype	Prescribed type of beam of a teletherapy treatment course. Note T4-T7 were retired 1 April 2014.	TEXT	T1 = Photons T2 = Electrons T3 = Other
Radiotherapy beam energy	radiotherapybeamenergy	Beam energy in MeV/MV/MVp. Records kVp energies as decimals (e.g. 250kV = 0.25MV). Only for multi-modality machines	NUMBER	Maximum length 3.3
Time of radiotherapy exposure	timeofexposure	Time when the exposure was initiated	TIME	HH:MM:SS

4. OPCDS

Variable	Variable name	Description	Field Type	Valid Content
CR patient identifier	e_cr_patid	Unique patient identifier based on NCRAS data	ID	Number
Attendance identifier	attendid	Unique attendance identifier for each radiotherapy appointment	ID	Maximum length 12
Organisation code of provider	orgcodeprovider	Pseudonymised code of the organisation acting as a Health Care Provider	TEXT	Maximum length 6
Procedure (OPCS)	primaryprocedureopcs	Procedure carried and recorded for CDS or HES purposes	TEXT	Maximum length 4
Procedure date	proceduredate	Date of the occurrence of the clinical intervention	DATE	ddmmyyyy