

Measuring Childhood Obesity -Guidance to PCTs on Data Handling

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Summary

1. DH is providing a central data store for child obesity data collected by PCTs to be available for live implementation by the end of June 2006
2. The central data store will be accessible by PCTs via UNIFY, the DH performance management system.
3. The data store will accept bulk upload of aggregated data items from PCTs at school year level.
4. The bulk upload will be facilitated by a spreadsheet template which DH will distribute to PCTs. The spreadsheet will enable PCTs to calculate BMI and obesity prevalence for use in PCTs and for upload to the central store.
5. The central data store will be available for download to facilitate consistent local analysis and LDP return entry to the DH performance management system.
6. Detailed instructions will be provided on how to access and use the central data facility in late June following successful testing of the developed solution.

Introduction

Background to this guidance

7. In January 2006 the Department of Health published guidance to Primary Care Trusts on how to measure the height and weight of children aged between 4 and 11 years. This was published on the Department's Website:

Measuring childhood obesity: Guidance for primary care trusts

http://www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidanceArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4126385&chk=Qb6Blx

8. The Guidance announced that there would be further guidance covering issues of data transfer, handling, analysis and feedback to PCTs.

Data handling

9. Data handling covers the following:
 - Pupil Names

- Recording data in schools (means and format)
- Data storage and handling
- Transfer of data
- Calculating BMI and Obesity Prevalence
- Analysis and reporting

Pupil Names

10. The previous guidance invites PCTs to approach schools to provide them with pupil year-lists containing names and dates of birth. The pupil lists provided to PCTs should contain the names of those pupils whose parents have not opted out to measurement of their child. Some parents may withhold consent; some children may refuse to be measured on the day; and some children may be absent from school.
11. It is important for PCTs to obtain also from schools
12. the **total number** (not the names) of children in the two year groups (reception year and year 6).
13. This is required so that PCTs can fulfil the requirements of the LDP monitoring lines on data quality (See Appendix 3); and to help us monitor the extent of failure to measure so that we can improve the system in the future.
14. PCTs will need to retain the list of names of pupils measured in case parents request information on their child's height and weight.

Format for recording data

15. Appendix 1 provides an example of how data on individual pupils could be recorded in schools. It should be noted that this guidance revises paragraph 5.2.1 of the previous guidance on Measuring Childhood Obesity by recommending that children's height should be measured and recorded to the nearest millimetre.

Data Storage and Handling

16. To support PCTs in storing and handling the data from the local child measurement exercises and to ensure that the most economic solution is adopted for the NHS as a whole DH is developing a central database (The National Child Obesity Database (NCOD)).
17. The database will be available via a browser within the current UNIFY system (See Appendix 2). It will contain obesity and overweight figures that are aggregated at school year level which are then used to calculate

the Local Delivery Plan lines on Obesity within the national obesity Public Service Agreement; and to provide comparative data via a download from the central database for PCTs to help with local targeting of resources and benchmarking with other PCTs across England. Also, it will reduce the need for PCTs to introduce local information management systems to handle the child measurement data to be collected by PCTs this summer.

18. The Department of Health will support this central database by making available to PCTs a local Excel spreadsheet template (downloadable from within the UNIFY website) that will take collected pupil (See Appendix 4) and school year data (See Appendix 5) and load aggregated school year obesity and overweight details to the database.
19. Those PCTs which currently have a system in place to record pupil details (similar to that shown in Appendix 1) will only have to copy and paste the pupil details into the DH supplied spreadsheet, hence reducing the need to re-key information.
20. For those PCTs which do not have a local system in place, there will be a basic input form on the spreadsheet that will perform basic validation at the keying-in stage. (See Appendix 1)

User Access

21. There will be three levels of users of the National Child Obesity Database: PCT, SHA and DH (England). Each user will have access to the following data, which can be viewed or downloaded, via the UNIFY website:
 - school year aggregate will be available to DH, the PCT's home SHA and the home PCT only; but not available to other SHAs and other PCTs.
 - SHA and PCT aggregates will be available to DH, home PCT, home SHA, other SHAs and other PCTs
22. No individual pupil data will be available to any user of the National Child Obesity Database.
23. Detailed instructions will be provided on how to access and use the central data facility in late June following successful testing of the developed solution

Calculating BMI and Obesity Prevalence

24. PCTs are asked in *Measuring Child Obesity* NOT to calculate Body Mass Index (BMI) at the point of measurement, i.e. at the school. The Department of Health spreadsheet which will support the central database will automatically calculate BMI for each child and allocate each child into normal, overweight (but not obese) and obese categories based on the 85th and 95th centile of the UK 1990 Reference Population for that age and gender.

Aggregating the data

25. The individual child records will be aggregated up to school level and PCT level for each age group so that they can then be loaded onto the National Child Obesity Database.

26. The school level data is primarily for use by PCTs to identify particular groups of schools for targeting and focusing of school-based and community-based obesity prevention and management initiatives. The data also need to be aggregated at PCT level to facilitate comparisons and benchmarking between PCTs and to provide data to the Department of Health Performance Management System (UNIFY).

27. The data required by UNIFY is the five lines listed in Appendix 3.

Analysis and reporting

28. PCTs will be able to analyse data by school (broken down by school year/gender) and identify clusters of schools with high levels of overweight and obese children. (Caution will however need to be exercised in making statistical comparisons between schools where numbers of pupils are small.) This data and analysis should be shared and discussed with the local healthy schools programme. This should help in targeting children in primary school setting or in particular school catchment areas. SHAs and PCTs will also be able through the national database to look at similar school clusters/neighbourhoods in other parts of England, compare data and potentially exchange information about the obesogenic environments. PCTs will also be able to make available to schools prevalence data on obese, overweight and normal weight pupils to assist schools in developing their own initiatives to combat overweight and obesity.

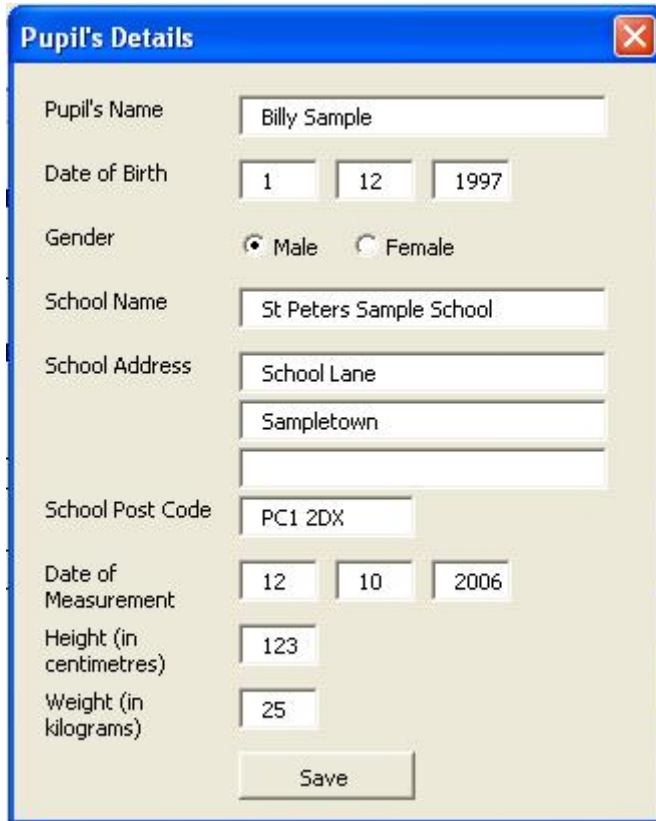
29. PCTs will also be able to make available to schools prevalence data on obese, overweight and normal weight pupils to assist schools in developing their own initiatives to combat overweight and obesity.

Appendix 1

Core Data and example of School Data Form

- Full Name (to be retained by PCT and not transferred to NCOD)
- Date of Birth (not to be placed on the NCOD)
- Gender
- School name
- School address and postcode
- School year
- Date of measurement
- Height (in centimetres)
- Weight (in kilograms)

Sample entry form:



The image shows a screenshot of a software window titled "Pupil's Details". The window has a blue title bar with a close button (X) on the right. The form contains the following fields and data:

Pupil's Name	Billy Sample
Date of Birth	1 / 12 / 1997
Gender	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Male <input type="radio"/> Female
School Name	St Peters Sample School
School Address	School Lane Sampletown
School Post Code	PC1 2DX
Date of Measurement	12 / 10 / 2006
Height (in centimetres)	123
Weight (in kilograms)	25

At the bottom of the form is a "Save" button.

Appendix 2

UNIFY

UNIFY is the source of Performance Management information for the Department of Health and NHS. UNIFY brings together the data collection and performance reports for the NHS and Social Care system in England. UNIFY contains quarterly, monthly and weekly returns such as LDP and Sitreps. Performance reports are in the form of chart, maps and summary tables. Also within UNIFY is the Patient Experience system which contains reports on patient surveys.

The URL to access UNIFY is:

<http://nww.unify.dh.nhs.uk>

All user's need to have is a username and password so that they can access the parts that are relevant to them.

Appendix 3

Local Delivery Plan Lines on Child Obesity

Line 1: Total number of primary school age children in Year R and Year 6 recorded as obese for their age in the past school year.

Line 2: Total number of primary school age children in Year R and Year 6 with height and weight recorded in the past school year.

Line 3: Total number of primary school age children in Year R and Year 6.

Line 4: Percentage of children with height and weight recorded who are obese. *This is a calculated field using $[Line 1] / [Line 2] * 100$*

Line 5: Percentage of children with height and weight recorded.

*This is a calculated field using $[Line 2] / [Line 3] * 100$*

Source: of LDP Lines: Letter from Duncan Selbie to SHA Chief Executives Local Delivery Plans 2005/08 Phase II-Technical Note (Gateway ref: 5915 16 December 2005)

Note: SHA level plans are due to be submitted to DH via the LDP area of UNIFY by 29th September 2006.

Appendix 4

Example of PCT (DH supplied Spreadsheet) - Pupil Details to be held by PCT

	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Gender (M/F)	Date of Birth	School Name	School Pos	School Year	Date of Measurement	Height (in CMS)	Weight (in KG)
2	M	01/01/1996	Green Lane Schc	WX3 4YZ	6	14/03/2006	100	20.42
3	M	01/01/1996	Green Lane Schc	WX3 4YZ	6	14/03/2006	100	19
4	M	01/01/1996	Green Lane Schc	WX3 4YZ	6	14/03/2006	100	18
5	M	01/01/1996	Green Lane Schc	WX3 4YZ	6	14/03/2006	100	21
6	M	01/01/1996	St Johns Primary	SE1 6LH	6	14/03/2006	100	20.42
7	M	01/01/1996	St Johns Primary	SE1 6LH	6	14/03/2006	100	19
8	M	01/01/1996	St Johns Primary	SE1 6LH	6	14/03/2006	100	18
9	M	01/01/1996	St Johns Primary	SE1 6LH	6	14/03/2006	100	21
10	M	01/01/2000	Green Lane Schc	WX3 4YZ	R	14/03/2006	100	18.1
11	M	01/01/2000	Green Lane Schc	WX3 4YZ	R	14/03/2006	100	17.5
12	M	01/01/2000	Green Lane Schc	WX3 4YZ	R	14/03/2006	100	16
13	M	01/01/2000	Green Lane Schc	WX3 4YZ	R	14/03/2006	100	19
14	M	01/01/2000	St Johns Primary	SE1 6LH	R	14/03/2006	100	18.1
15	M	01/01/2000	St Johns Primary	SE1 6LH	R	14/03/2006	100	17.5
16	M	01/01/2000	St Johns Primary	SE1 6LH	R	14/03/2006	100	16
17	M	01/01/2000	St Johns Primary	SE1 6LH	R	14/03/2006	100	19

Appendix 5`

Example of PCT (DH supplied Spreadsheet) – School Year Details to be uploaded to NCOD

	A	B	C	D
1	School Name	School Year (R/6)	Number of Pupils	
2	St Johns Primary Sc	R	23	
3	St Johns Primary Sc	6	30	
4	Green Lane School	6	23	
5	Green Lane School	R	30	
6	Robin Hood Primary	6	23	
7	Robin Hood Primary	R	30	
8	St Marys School	6	23	
9	St Marys School	R	30	
10	Broad oak	6	23	
11	Broad oak	R	30	
12	Elm Street Primary	6	23	
13	Elm Street Primary	R	30	
14	Richmond	6	23	