
Compensable status

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Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary: NHDD
Knowledgebase ID: 000026 Version number: 1
Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT
Registration Authority: NHIMG Admin status: SUPERSEDED
Effective date: 30-JUN-93

Definition: Any patient who is entitled to the payment of, or who has been paid compensation for, damages or other benefits (including a payment in settlement of a claim for compensation, damages or other benefits) in respect of the injury, illness or disease for which he or she is receiving care and treatment, is classified as a compensable patient.

This definition excludes entitled beneficiaries (Veterans' Affairs) and Defence Force personnel treated in public and private hospitals. It also excludes Motor Accidents (Compensation) Act 1979 (NT) beneficiaries treated as public patients (on first admission) in Northern Territory hospitals. On second and subsequent admissions, Territory Insurance Office patients should be counted as compensable patients.

Context: To assist in analyses of utilisation and health care funding. This item was also included for public psychiatric hospitals because some of these are included in the new Medicare Agreements which recognise compensable status.

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype: Numeric
Representational form: CODE
Representation layout: N
Minimum Size: 1
Maximum Size: 1
Data Domain: 1 Compensable
 2 Non-compensable

Related metadata: is used in conjunction with Patient accommodation status version 1

is used in conjunction with Patient accommodation eligibility status version 2
has been superseded by Compensable status version 2

Administrative Attributes

Source Document:

Source Organisation: National minimum data set working parties

Comments: Acute hospitals and private psychiatric hospitals
Data elements 'Patient accommodation eligibility status', 'Compensable status' and 'Type of episode of care' collectively replace the 'charging classification' proposed by the Taskforce on National Hospital Statistics (1988) for acute hospital in-patients (refer to comment for data element 'Patient accommodation eligibility status'). The Morbidity Working Party considered splitting the compensable patient category into three categories, as follows:

1 = Workers compensation

2 = Third party

3 = Other compensable

Although the Commonwealth Department of Community Services and Health felt it would be useful to distinguish these categories for a range of purposes, such as analysis of occupational disease costs, or motor vehicle accident costs, the working party took the view that such analyses would be better undertaken with other data sources and there were no direct uses of detailed data on compensable patients at the National Minimum Data Set level.

Public psychiatric hospitals

For in-patients of psychiatric hospitals, compensable status is recognised only in the South Australian system. It is collected there in monthly activity statistics but not in the mental health morbidity collection. The Psychiatric Working Party was advised that compensable patients do not form a significant proportion of South Australian psychiatric in-patients. However, the working party recommended that this item be included for psychiatric hospitals. The justification was that, as some public psychiatric hospitals were included in the new Medicare Agreements, this item should be collected since this category is recognised under the Agreements. The Commonwealth Department of Community Services and Health confirmed that the data will be used, in particular to look at funding issues. It was therefore important that the information be included as part of the data set.

Nursing homes

The Nursing Homes Working Party considered that this item was not relevant for nursing homes in the National Minimum Data Set. South Australia is the only State that collects this item for State nursing homes. The NH5 form collects compensable status for nursing home patients according to the categories listed above. Some nursing home residents may not have been aware of their compensation status at the time the NH5 was completed (there is probably some level of under-reporting of compensation cases).

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

NHIM Insurance / benefit characteristic

Data Agreements which include this Data Element

NMDS - Admitted patient care From 01-Jul-89 to 30-Jun-93
