
Type of episode of care

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Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary: NHDD
Knowledgebase ID: 000168 Version number: 2
Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT
Registration Authority: NHIMG Admin status: SUPERSEDED
Effective date: 30-JUN-98

Definition:

Comments: In October 1993 the proposed definition of episode of care was not endorsed by the National Health Information Management Group. The decision to implement was postponed until the definition of acute care was finalised.

The definition of an acute admitted patient episode of care, stated above, was endorsed for inclusion in the National health data dictionary on the grounds that the definition be used for the purposes of casemix definition development until it has been tested and refined. It was also recommended that there be a parallel between the development of the acute care definition and the sub-acute and non-acute care projects to ensure that the boundaries between care types are appropriately defined and to consistently identify the beginning and end of an episode of care.

Persons with mental illness may fall into any one of the care types (except unqualified neonates) and classification is dependent upon the principal clinical intent of the care received.

It should be noted that unqualified neonates are not to be counted under the Medicare Agreements and that they are ineligible for health insurance benefit purposes.

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

NHIM Service provision event

Data Agreements which include this Data Element

NMDS - Admitted patient mental health From 01-Jul-97 to 30-Jun-98
care

An episode of care is a phase of treatment. It is described by one of the following types of care:

An episode of acute care for an admitted patient is one in which the principal clinical intent is one or more of the following:

- to manage labour (obstetric);
- to cure illness or provide definitive treatment of injury;
- to perform surgery;
- to relieve symptoms of illness or injury (excluding palliative care);
- to reduce severity of an illness or injury;
- to protect against exacerbation and/or complication of an illness and/or injury which could threaten life or normal function; and/or
- to perform diagnostic or therapeutic procedures.

An episode of rehabilitation care occurs when a person with a disability is participating in a multidisciplinary program aimed at an improvement in functional capacity, retraining in lost skills and/or change in psychosocial adaptation.

An episode of palliative care occurs when a person's condition has progressed beyond the stage where curative treatment is effective and attainable or, where the person chooses not to pursue curative treatment. Palliation provides relief of suffering and enhancement of quality of life for such a person. Interventions such as radiotherapy, chemotherapy, and surgery are considered part of the palliative episode if they are undertaken specifically to provide symptomatic relief.

An episode of non-acute care includes care provided to persons who:

- are Nursing Home Type Patients (NHTPs), i.e. when a patient has been in hospital (public and private) for a continuous period exceeding 35 days and does not have a current acute care certificate issued under s.3B of the Health Insurance Act 1973 (Cwlth) or, alternatively, an order made under s.3A of that Act which determines that the patient is in need of acute care for a specified period;
- are not NHTPs or would normally not require hospital treatment but where there are factors in the home environment (physical, social, psychological) which make it inappropriate for the person to be discharged in the short term. This includes patients who are not eligible under current legislation to become NHTPs (compensable and ineligible patients) and have been in one or more hospitals for a continuous period of more than 35 days with a maximum break of seven days, who would otherwise be deemed to be NHTPs;
- are not NHTPs but are in receipt of respite care where the sole

reason for admitting the person to hospital is that the care that is usually provided in another environment, e.g. at home, in a nursing home, by a relative or with a guardian, is unavailable in the short term;

- are treated in psychiatric units who have a stable but severe level of functional impairment and inability to function independently without extensive care and support and for whom the principal function is provision of care over an indefinite period.

An unqualified neonate is nine days old or less and meets the following criteria:

- is a single live birth or the first live born infant of institutional health care a multiple birth, whose mother is currently an admitted patient; and
- is not admitted to an intensive care facility in a hospital, being a facility approved by the Commonwealth Minister for the purpose of the provision of special care.

An other episode of care is one where the principal clinical intent does not meet the criteria for any of the above.

Context: Institutional health care: the identification of different episodes of care is required in order to appropriately classify and count the care a person received whilst in hospital. The type of care received will determine the appropriate casemix classification that shall be employed to classify the episode.

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype:	Numeric	
Representational form:	CODE	
Representation layout:	N.N	
Minimum Size:	3	
Maximum Size:	3	
Data Domain:	1.0	Acute care
	2.1	Rehabilitation care - delivered in a designated unit
	2.2	Rehabilitation care - according to a designated program
	2.3	Rehabilitation care - principal clinical intent
	3.1	Palliative care - delivered in a designated unit
	3.2	Palliative care - according to a designated program
	3.3	Palliative care - principal clinical intent
	4.0	Non-acute care
	5.0	Unqualified neonate

6.0 Other care

Guide For Use: An episode of care refers to the phase of treatment rather than to each individual patient day. There may be more than one episode of care within the one overnight stay period.

An episode of care begins on the date the person meets criteria defined above for a particular type of care; this may be the same as the date the person was admitted to hospital or a date during the hospital stay. An episode of care ends when the principal clinical intent of the care changes or when the patient is formally separated from the hospital.

A rehabilitation episode includes care provided:

- in a designated rehabilitation unit;
- in a designated rehabilitation program, or in a psychiatric rehabilitation program as designated by the state health authority for Medicare patients in a recognised hospital, for private patients in a public or private hospital as approved by a registered health benefits organisation; or
- under the principal clinical management of a rehabilitation physician, or in the opinion of the treating doctor the principal clinical intent of care is rehabilitation.

A palliative episode of care includes care provided:

- in a palliative care unit;
- in a designated palliative care program; or
- under the principal clinical management of a palliative care physician or in the opinion of the treating doctor the principal clinical intent of care is palliation.

Coding for rehabilitation/palliative care should be carried out in strict numerical sequence and only the first appropriate category should be coded; i.e. when a patient under the clinical management of a rehabilitation/palliative care physician is receiving care in a designated program, the episode should be coded to the option that is highest in the hierarchy (designated program).

The Nursing Home Type Patient criteria applies to all admitted patients regardless of the type of episode of care the patient is receiving. Once a patient meets this criteria they should be classified as a Nursing Home Type Patient.

Related metadata: relates to the data element concept Acute care episode for admitted patients version 1

relates to the data element concept Admitted patient version 1

is used in conjunction with Admission date version 3
supersedes previous data element Type of episode (type of care)
version 1
is used in conjunction with Source of referral to public psychiatric
hospital version 3
is used in conjunction with Source of referral to acute hospital or
private psychiatric hospital version 3
is used in conjunction with Mode of separation version 3
is used in the derivation of Patient days version 2
is used in conjunction with Discharge date version 4
has been superseded by Type of episode of care version 3

Administrative Attributes

Source Document:

Source Organisation: National Health Data Committee
