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# Unique client identifier

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**Important note: This is an archived metadata standard from the AIHW Knowledgebase. For current metadata standards and related information please access METeOR, the AIHW's Metadata Online Registry at <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au>**

## *Identifying and Definitional Attributes*

Data Dictionary: NCSDD  
Knowledgebase ID: 000542                      Version number: 1  
Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT CONCEPT  
Admin status: RETIRED                      Effective date: 01-JUL-98  
Definition: A client identifier that is unique within a community services agency.  
Context: The unique client identifier, which should be generated randomly and have no embedded meaning, is a key variable in agency records because it identifies and separates records relating to each individual. It may also be used for linkage of episodes. The unique client identifier is generally used only for internal management purposes.

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## *Relational and Representational Attributes*

Datatype:  
Guide For Use: Individual agencies or collection authorities may use their own alphabetic, numeric or alphanumeric coding systems.  
Collection Methods: A unique client identifier must not be equal to the clients name. Some agencies develop client identifiers that consist of a combination of letters that may make up the clients name, but this is not recommended as it may conflict with privacy and confidentiality considerations. It is possible to combine random letters and numbers in order to make up the unique client identifier.

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## *Administrative Attributes*

Source Document: National Health Data Dictionary  
Source Organisation: National Health Data Committee

Comments: Some agencies use an alphanumeric code to record this data item, whereas other agencies use only a numeric code. In order to accommodate all community services agencies, an alphanumeric code needs to be used. It must also be noted that under no

circumstances whatsoever, should the unique client identifier be released to external agencies without prior consideration of privacy and confidentiality policy and legislation.

Was ID. 000042 (500 added to avoid NHDD DE with same ID.).

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### *Data Element Links*

*Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element*

*Data Agreements which include this Data Element*

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