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# Principal procedure - ICD-10-AM code

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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: NHDD  
Knowledgebase ID: 000137                      Version number: 4  
Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT  
Registration Authority: NHIMG                      Admin status: SUPERSEDED  
Effective date: 30-JUN-99  
Definition: The most significant procedure that was performed for treatment of the principal diagnosis.  
Context: Institutional health care: this item gives an indication of the extent to which specialised resources, for example, human resources, theatres and equipment, are used. It also provides an estimate of the numbers of surgical operations performed and the extent to which particular procedures are used to resolve medical problems.  
It is required for classification of acute admitted patients into Australian National Diagnosis Related Groups.

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## *Relational and Representational Attributes*

Datatype: Numeric  
Representational form: CODE  
Representation layout: NNNNN-NN  
Minimum Size: 7  
Maximum Size: 7  
Data Domain: NOVAL      ICD-10-AM codes  
Guide For Use: When no procedure was performed for treatment of the principal diagnosis, use the following hierarchy:  
- procedure performed for treatment of additional diagnosis;  
- diagnostic /exploratory procedure related to the principal diagnosis; or  
- diagnostic /exploratory procedure related to the additional diagnoses for the episode of care.  
ICD-10-AM, the Australian modification of ICD-10, is published by the National Centre for Classification in Health and was implemented from July 1998. The classification is revised

