Carer availability

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: 000022 Version number: 2

Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT

Registration NHIMG Admin status: SUPERSEDED

Authority: Effective date: 31-DEC-02

Definition: A record of whether a person has been identified, such as a family

member, friend or neighbour as providing regular on-going care, or

assistance which is not linked to a formal service.

Context: The availability of informal care at home is often a determinant of a

person's ability to remain in home care, especially if they are highly dependent. It is also an indicator of risk if a vulnerable person lives alone, or has no carer. As the focus of care increasingly moves to the

community, it is important to monitor the degree of need, the

amount of formal care given, and the presence of a carer. This helps to establish how much of the overall burden is being absorbed by the

'informal' caring system.

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype: Numeric

Representational CODE

form:

Representation NN

layout:

Minimum Size: 2 Maximum Size: 2

Data Domain: 01 Person independent

No carer availableHas a co-resident carer

04 Has a non-resident carer

Lives in a mutually dependent situation
Not applicable person in residential care
Not stated/inadequately described

Guide For Use: This includes people who receive payment such as a special

benefit or pension.

This excludes formal services such as delivered meals or home help, persons arranged by formal services such as volunteers, and funded group housing or similar situations. Availability infers carer willingness and ability to undertake the caring role and can apply when there are several carers. Where a potential carer is not prepared to undertake the role, or when their capacity to carry out necessary tasks is minimal, then the person must be coded as not having 'No carer available'.

Where there are several carers, a decision should be taken as to which of these is the main or primary carer and code accordingly. The following descriptions may assist in the selection of the most appropriate data.

- 1. PERSON INDEPENDENT indicates that the person has no need for assistance from informal carers.
- 2. NO CARER AVAILABLE means that the person needs a carer but has no one able to provide informal care.
- 3. HAS A CO-RESIDENT CARER (excludes Code 5) means that the person has a carer who is living in the same household.
- 4. HAS A NON-RESIDENT CARER means that the person has a carer who is living in a different household.
- 5. LIVES IN A MUTUALLY DEPENDENT SITUATION (excludes Code 3) refers to those households where the service recipient and another person are mutually dependent. The critical aspect of such households is that if either member becomes unavailable for any reason, the other is either at high risk or unable to remain at home.
- 6. NOT APPLICABLE PERSON IN RESIDENTIAL CARE services are provided by a formal agency in a supported accommodation or other care facility.
- 99. NOT STATED/INSUFFICIENTLY DESCRIBED means that there is insufficient information to determine carer availability.

Collection Methods: Carer availability is to be collected at admission and again at discharge. The discharge information refers to the status immediately prior to the discharge, and not the need of the service recipient after the event.

Related metadata: supersedes previous data element Carer availability version 1

Administrative Attributes

Source Document:

Source Organisation: Australian Council of Community Nursing Services

Comments: The original item 'Carer Availability' in Version 1.0 of the CNMDSA has been split into two items 'Carer Availability' and 'Living Arrangement'. Users of the CNMDSA found the original item difficult to apply as it was seeking to do two things: describe the carer availability and the person's living arrangements within one item. The new item 'Living Arrangement' is introduced to clarify meaning and describe each item more clearly.

> The reason for collection at both admission and discharge is that over a care episode, a change in carer status may occur either because the caring load increases, and/or, the carer's ability or willingness to undertake the role ceases or is diminished. This may necessitate discharge of the person from care, and has implications for health service utilisation. The coding options are therefore identical to enable comparison of the admission and discharge states. The discharge information refers to the person's state when care was being delivered, not after their discharge from care.

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element **NHIM** Functional wellbeing

Data Agreements which include this Data Element

Draft DSS - CNMDSA for Community Nursing

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