Impairment extent

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary:	NCSDD		
Knowledgebase ID:	000566	Version number:	2
Metadata type:	DATA ELEMENT		
Registration Authority:	NCSIMG	Admin status:	SUPERSEDED
		Effective date:	01-MAR-05

Definition: The degree of impairment in a specified body function or structure. Impairments are problems in body function or structure such as a loss or significant departure from population standards or averages.

Context: Impairments represent variation in body parts, structures and functions which depart from generally accepted population standards and averages in the biomedical status of the body and its structure and function.
Impairments are recorded in terms of the extent or magnitude of this variation.
Definition of the constituents of impairment is undertaken primarily by those qualified to evaluate physical and mental functioning or structure according to these standards.
Impairments of body structure can involve an anomaly, defect, absence, loss or other significant variation.
'Body functions' and 'Body structures' are used with this metadata item to indicate the areas of impairment and, potentially, the sorts of interventions that may result in improved functioning. This could be in the form of rehabilitation, health-related interventions, equipment, or support for example.

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype:	Numeric	
Representational form:	CODE	
Representation layout:	N	
Minimum Size:	1	
Maximum Size:	1	
Data Domain:	0	No impairment

1	Mild impairment
2	Moderate impairment
3	Severe impairment
4	Complete impairment
9	Not specified / not applicable

Guide For Use: Code 0 No impairment is recorded when there is no significant variation from accepted population standards in the biomedical status of the body and its functions [0-4%].

Code 1 Mild impairment is recorded when there is a slight or low variation from accepted population standards in the biomedical status of the body and its functions [5-24%].

Code 2 Moderate impairment is recorded when there is a medium (significant but not severe) variation from accepted population standards in the biomedical status of the body and its functions [25-49%].

Code 3 Severe impairment is recorded when there is an extreme variation from accepted population standards in the biomedical status of the body and its functions [50-95%].

Code 4 Complete impairment is recorded when there is a total variation from accepted population standards in the biomedical status of the body and its functions [96-100%].

Collection Methods: This coding is used in conjunction with specified body functions and body structures, for example 'mild impairment of structures related to movement'.
Broad ranges of percentages are provided for collections where calibrated assessment instruments or other standards are available to quantify the impairment. Many existing assessment tools are in use, and are embedded in measurement and payment methods in services in Australia. Calibration and mapping of existing tools within this international framework will be an important process towards greater national consistency of data on body functions, structures and impairments thereof.
Impairments should be detectable or noticeable by others or the person by direct observation or by inference from indirect observation. Impairments are not the same as the underlying pathology, but are manifestations of that pathology.
Impairments can be temporary or permanent; progressive, regressive or static; intermittent or continuous. The deviation from the population norm may be slight or severe and may fluctuate over time. Impairments may result in other impairments.
Impairments may be part or an expression of a health condition,

but do not necessarily indicate that a disease is present or that the individual should be regarded as sick.

Related metadata: supersedes previous data element Impairment extent version 1
relates to the data element concept Disability version 2
relates to the data element concept Functioning version 1
relates to the data element concept Activity - functioning, disability and health version 1
relates to the data element concept Participation - functioning, disability and health version 1
relates to the data element concept Assistance with activities and participation version 1

Administrative Attributes

Source Document: World Health Organization (WHO) 2001. ICF: International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health. Geneva: WHO.
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 2003. ICF Australian User Guide Version 1.0. Canberra: AIHW.

Source Organisation: World Health Organization

Comments: The ICF was endorsed by the World Health Assembly in 2001 and is a core member of the WHO family of health related classifications. Further information on the ICF can be found in the ICF itself and the ICF Australian User Guide (AIHW 2003) and the following websites:
- Australian Collaborating Centre ICF website
http://www.aihw.gov.au/disability/icf/index.html
- WHO ICF website:
http://www3.who.int/icf/icftemplate.cfm

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

NCSIM Impairment characteristic

Data Agreements which include this Data Element