
Family name

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: 000781 Version number: 1
Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT
Registration Authority: NHIMG Admin status: SUPERSEDED
 Effective date: 01-SEP-03
Definition: That part of a name a person usually has in common with some other members of his/her family, as distinguished from her/his given names.
Context:

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype: Alphabetic
Representational form:
Representation layout: A(40)
Minimum Size: 1
Maximum Size: 40
Data Domain: NOVAL Text
Collection Methods: Mixed case should be used.

Family name should be recorded in the format preferred by the person. The format should be the same as that written by the person on a (pre-) registration form or in the same format as that printed on an identification card, such as Medicare card, to ensure consistent collection of name data.

It is acknowledged that some people use more than one family name (e.g. formal name, birth name, married/maiden name, tribal name) depending on the circumstances. Each name should be recorded against the appropriate Name type.

A person is able to change his or her name by usage in all States and Territories of Australia with the exception of Western

Australia, where a person may change his or her name under the Change of Name Act. Care should be taken when recording a change of name for a minor. Ideally, the name recorded for the minor should be known to both of his/her parents, so the minor's records can be retrieved and continuity of care maintained, regardless of which parent accompanies the minor to the health care establishment.

A person should generally be registered using their preferred name as it is more likely to be used in common usage and on subsequent visits to the health care establishment. The person's preferred name may in fact be the name on their Medicare card. The Name type data element can be used to distinguish between the different types of names that may be used by the person.

The following format may assist with data collection:
What is your family name?

Are you known by any other family names that you would like recorded? If so, what are they?

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Please indicate, for each name above, the 'type' of family name that is to be recorded:

- (a) Medicare card name (if different to preferred name).
- (b) Alias (any other name that you are known by).

Whenever a person informs the establishment of a change of family name (e.g. following marriage or divorce), the former name should be recorded as an alias name. A full history of names should be retained. e.g. Mary Georgina Smith informs the hospital that she has been married and changed her family name to Jones. Record 'Jones' as her preferred family name and record 'Smith' as an alias name.

Hyphenated family names:

Sometimes persons with hyphenated family names use only one of the two hyphenated names. It is useful to record each of the hyphenated names as an alias. If the person has a hyphenated family name, e.g. Wilson-Phillips record 'Wilson-Phillips' in the preferred Family name field and record 'Wilson' and 'Phillips' separately as alias family names.

Registered unnamed newborn babies:

When registering a newborn, use the mother's family name as the baby's family name unless instructed otherwise by the mother. Record unnamed babies under the newborn Name type.

Persons with only one name:

Some people do not have a family name and a given name, they have only one name by which they are known. If the person has only one name, record it in the Family name field and leave the Given name field blank.

Registering an unidentified health care client:

The default for unknown family name, should be 'Unknown' in all instances and the name recorded as an alias name. Don't create a 'fictitious' family name such as 'Doe' as this is an actual family name. When the person's name becomes known, record it as the preferred Family name and do not overwrite the alias name of 'Unknown'.

Registering health care clients from disaster sites:

Persons treated from disaster sites should be recorded under the alias Name type. Local business rules should be developed for consistent recording of disaster site person details.

Care should be taken not to use identical dummy data (family name, given name, date of birth, sex) for two or more persons from a disaster site.

If the family name needs to be shortened:

If the length of the family name exceeds the length of the field, truncate the family name from the right (that is, dropping the final letters). Also, the last character of the name should be a hash (#) to identify that the name has been truncated.

Use of incomplete names or fictitious names:

Some health care facilities permit persons to use a pseudonym (fictitious or partial name) in lieu of their full or actual name. It is recommended that the person be asked to record both the pseudonym (alias name) in addition to the person's Medicare card name.

Baby for adoption:

The word 'Adoption' should not be used as the family name, given name or alias for a newborn baby. A newborn baby that is for adoption should be registered in the same way that other newborn babies are registered. However, if a baby born in the hospital is

subsequently adopted, and is admitted for treatment as a child, the baby is registered under their adopted (current) name, and the record should not be linked to the birth record. This should be the current practice. Any old references to 'Adoption' in client registers (for names) should also be changed to 'Unknown'. Contact your State or Territory adoption information service for further information.

Punctuation:

If special characters form part of the family name they should be included, e.g. hyphenated names should be entered with a hyphen.

"hyphen" e.g. Wilson-Phillips

Do not leave a space before or after a hyphen, i.e. between the last letter of 'Wilson' and the hyphen, nor a space between the hyphen and the first letter of 'Phillips'.

"apostrophe" e.g. O'Brien, D'Agostino

Do not leave a space before or after the apostrophe, i.e. between the 'O' and the apostrophe, nor a space between the apostrophe and 'Brien'.

"full stop" e.g. St. John, St. George

Do not leave a space before a full stop, i.e. between 'St' and the full stop. Do leave a space between the full stop and 'John'.

"space" e.g. Van Der Humm, Le Brun, Mc Donald

If the health care client has recorded their family name as more than one word, displaying spaces in between the words, record their family name in the same way leaving one space between each word.

Prefixes:

Where a family name contains a prefix, such as one to indicate that the person is a widow, this must be entered as part of the Family name field. When widowed, some Hungarian women add 'Ozvegy' (abbreviation is 'Ozy') before their married family name, e.g. 'Mrs Szabo' would become 'Mrs Ozy Szabo'. That is, 'Mrs Szabo' becomes an alias name and 'Mrs Ozy Szabo' becomes the preferred name.

Ethnic Names:

The Centrelink publication, Naming Systems for Ethnic Groups, provides the correct coding for ethnic names.

Misspelled family name:

If the person's family name has been misspelled in error, update the family name with the correct spelling and record the misspelled family name as an alias name. Recording misspelled names is important for filing documents that may be issued with previous versions of the person's name. Discretion should be used regarding the degree of recording that is maintained.

Related metadata: relates to the data element Name title version 1
relates to the data element Given name(s) version 1
relates to the data element Name suffix version 1
relates to the data element Name type version 1
relates to the data element Name context flag version 1
relates to the data element concept Name version 1
has been superseded by Int. NCSDD & NHDD Family name version 2

Administrative Attributes

Source Document: AS5017 Health care client identification, with adaptations.

Source Organisation: Standards Australia

Comments: .

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

NHIM Person characteristic

Data Agreements which include this Data Element

DSS - Health care client identification

From 01-Jan-03 to 01-Sep-03
