

Person—eligibility status, Medicare code N

Exported from METEOR (AIHW's Metadata Online Registry)

© Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2024

This product, excluding the AIHW logo, Commonwealth Coat of Arms and any material owned by a third party or protected by a trademark, has been released under a Creative Commons BY 4.0 (CC BY 4.0) licence. Excluded material owned by third parties may include, for example, design and layout, images obtained under licence from third parties and signatures. We have made all reasonable efforts to identify and label material owned by third parties.

You may distribute, remix and build on this website's material but must attribute the AIHW as the copyright holder, in line with our attribution policy. The full terms and conditions of this licence are available at <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.

Enquiries relating to copyright should be addressed to info@aihw.gov.au.

Enquiries or comments on the METEOR metadata or download should be directed to the METEOR team at meteor@aihw.gov.au.

Person—eligibility status, Medicare code N

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Medicare eligibility status
METEOR identifier:	351922
Registration status:	Health! , Superseded 08/02/2012
Definition:	An indicator of a person's eligibility for Medicare at the time of the episode of care, as specified under the Commonwealth Health Insurance Act 1973, as represented by a code.
Context:	Admitted patient care: To facilitate analyses of hospital utilisation and policy relating to health care financing.
Data Element Concept:	Person—eligibility status
Value Domain:	Medicare eligibility status code N

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Code
Data type:	Number
Format:	N
Maximum character length:	1

	Value	Meaning
Permissible values:	1	Eligible
	2	Not eligible
Supplementary values:	9	Not stated/unknown

Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:

Eligible persons are

- Permanent residents of Australia
- Persons who have an application for permanent residence (not an aged parent visa), and have either:
 - a spouse, parent or child who is an Australian citizen or permanent resident, OR
 - authority from Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs to work
- Foreign spouses of Australian residents:
 - must have an application for permanent residence, as above
- Asylum seekers who have been issued with valid temporary visas. The list of visas is subject to changes which may be applied by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs.
- American Fulbright scholars studying in Australia (but not their dependents)
- Diplomats and their dependants from reciprocal health countries (excluding New Zealand and Norway) have full access to Medicare without the restrictions for American Fulbright scholars.

Reciprocal health care agreements

Residents of countries with whom Australia has Reciprocal health care agreements are also eligible under certain circumstances. Australia has Reciprocal Health Care Agreements with Ireland, Italy, Finland, Malta, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom. These Agreements give visitors from these countries access to Medicare and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme for the treatment of an illness or injury which occurs during their stay, and which requires treatment before returning home (that is, these Agreements cover immediately necessary medical treatment, elective treatment is not covered). The Agreements provide for free accommodation and treatment as public hospital services, but do not cover treatment as a private patient in any kind of hospital.

– The Agreements with Finland, Italy, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom provide free care as a public patient in public hospitals, subsidised out-of-hospital medical treatment under Medicare, and subsidised medicines under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

– The Agreements with New Zealand and Ireland provide free care as a public patient in public hospitals and subsidised medicines under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, but do not cover out-of-hospital medical treatment.

– Visitors from Italy and Malta are covered for a period of six months from the date of arrival in Australia only.

Eligible patients may elect to be treated as either a public or a private patient.

A newborn will usually take the Medicare eligibility status of the mother. However, the eligibility status of the father will be applied to the newborn if the baby is not eligible solely by virtue of the eligibility status of the mother.

For example, if the mother of a newborn is an ineligible person but the father is eligible for Medicare, then the newborn will be eligible for Medicare.

Not eligible/ineligible: means any person who is not Medicare eligible. Ineligible patients may not elect to be treated as a public patient.

Prisoners are ineligible for Medicare, under Section 19 (2) of the Health Insurance Act 1973.

Relational attributes

Related metadata references:

Supersedes [Person—eligibility status, Medicare code N Health!](#), Superseded 04/07/2007

Has been superseded by [Person—eligibility status, Medicare code N Health!](#), Standard 08/02/2012
[Tasmanian Health](#), Standard 27/06/2017