

National Healthcare Agreement: PI 46-Rates of services: Outpatient occasions of service, 2012 QS

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Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Quality Statement
METEOR identifier:	500167
Registration status:	Health! , Retired 14/01/2015

Data quality

Data quality statement summary:

- Variations in counting and classification practices and in admission practices and policies across jurisdictions may affect the comparability of these data. For 2009–10, Tasmania was not able to provide occasions of service data for one hospital that reported about 280,000 non-admitted patient occasions of service to the National Public Hospital Establishment Database (NPHEd) in 2008–09. This represented a little under one third of total Tasmanian occasions of service in 2008–09. Therefore, Tasmanian data cannot be meaningfully compared across periods.
- Interpretation of rates for jurisdictions should take into consideration cross-border flows, particularly in the Australian Capital Territory.

Institutional environment: The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has calculated this indicator.

The AIHW is an independent statutory authority within the Health and Ageing portfolio, which is accountable to the Parliament of Australia through the Minister for Health and Ageing. For further information see the AIHW website.

The data were supplied to the AIHW by state and territory health authorities. The state and territory health authorities received these data from public and private hospitals. States and territories use these data for service planning, monitoring, and internal and public reporting. Hospitals may be required to provide data to states and territories through administrative arrangements, contractual requirements or legislation.

States and territories supplied these data under the terms of the National Health Information Agreement (see link below).

www.aihw.gov.au/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=6442472807&libID=6442472788

Timeliness: The reference period for these data is 2009–10.

Accessibility: The AIHW provides a variety of products that draw upon the NPHEd data. Published products available on the AIHW website are:

- *Australian hospital statistics* with associated Excel tables.
- interactive data cubes for public hospital establishments data.

Some data are also included on the MyHospitals website.

Interpretability:

Supporting information on the quality and use of the NPHEd is published annually in *Australian hospital statistics* (chapter 4 and technical appendixes), available in hard copy or on the AIHW website. Readers are advised to note caveat information to ensure appropriate interpretation of the performance indicator. Supporting information includes discussion of changes in service delivery that might affect interpretation of the published data. Metadata information for the National Minimum Data Set (NMDS) for public hospital establishments is published in the AIHW's online metadata repository (METeOR) and the *National health data dictionary*.

Relevance: The purpose of the NPHEd NMDS is to collect information on the characteristics of public hospitals and summary information on non-admitted services provided by them. The scope is establishment level data for public hospitals in Australia, including public acute, psychiatric, alcohol and drug treatment and dental hospitals. The collection covers hospitals within the jurisdiction of the state and territory health authorities. Hence, public hospitals not administered by the state and territory health authorities (for example, hospitals operated by correctional authorities and hospitals located in offshore territories) are not included.

Accuracy: For 2009–10, coverage of the NPHEd was essentially complete, except Tasmania was not able to provide occasions of service data for one hospital that reported about 280,000 non-admitted patient occasions of service to the NPHEd in 2008–09. This represented a little under one third of total Tasmanian occasions of service in 2008-09. The data are defined and/or documented in the NMDS for Public hospital establishments. However, differences in admission practices, counting and classification practices across jurisdictions may affect the comparability of these data.

Outpatient services delivered in group sessions by in-scope hospitals are excluded from this indicator. All outpatient occasions of services delivered in public psychiatric hospitals are also excluded.

States and territories are primarily responsible for the quality of the data they provide. However, the AIHW undertakes extensive validation on receipt of data. Data are checked for valid values, logical consistency and historical consistency. Where possible, data in individual data sets are checked against data from other data sets. Potential errors are queried with jurisdictions, and corrections and resubmissions may be made in response to these queries. The AIHW does not adjust data to account for possible data errors or missing or incorrect values.

Coherence: The information presented for this indicator is calculated using the same methodology as data published in *Australian hospital statistics 2009–10* and the *National healthcare agreement: performance report 2009–10*.

The data can be meaningfully compared across reference periods for all jurisdictions except Tasmania.

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: Supersedes [National Healthcare Agreement: PI 46: Rates of services: Outpatient occasions of service, 2011 QS](#)
[Health!](#), Superseded 04/12/2012

Indicators linked to this Data Quality statement: [National Healthcare Agreement: PI 46-Rates of services: Outpatient occasions of service, 2012](#)
[Health!](#), Retired 25/06/2013