

Patient—degree of hearing impairment, 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.

Patient—degree of hearing impairment, code N

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Degree of hearing impairment
Synonymous names:	Severity of hearing impairment
METEOR identifier:	500419
Registration status:	Indigenous , Standard 11/08/2014
Definition:	The degree of a patient's hearing impairment measured in decibel hearing level (dBHL), as represented by a code.
Data Element Concept:	Patient—degree of hearing impairment
Value Domain:	Degree of hearing impairment code N

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

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

	Value	Meaning
Permissible values:	1	Mild
	2	Moderate
	3	Severe
	4	Profound
Supplementary values:	8	Unknown
	9	Not stated/inadequately described

Proposed unit of measure: Decibel hearing level(dBHL)

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use: The degree of hearing impairment is based on the better ear and is measured in decibel hearing level (dBHL) as follows:

CODE 1 Mild
16-30dBHL in sound proof conditions and 26-35dBHL in non-soundproof conditions

CODE 2 Moderate
31-60dBHL in sound proof conditions and 36-60dBHL in non-soundproof conditions

CODE 3 Severe
61-90dBHL in sound proof conditions and 61-90dBHL in non-soundproof conditions

CODE 4 Profound
91dBHL in sound proof conditions and 91dBHL in non-soundproof conditions.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Reference documents: AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) 2011. Ear and hearing health of Indigenous children in the Northern Territory 2011. Cat. no. IHW 60. Canberra: AIHW. Pg 34. <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=10737420423>

Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use: Hearing impairment is a classification of functional impairment of the 3 frequency average (dBHL): 500Hz, 1000Hz and 2000Hz of thresholds in the better hearing ear.

Based on standards hearing impairment classification for children as recommended by Australian Hearing as data relates only to children.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Steward: [Australian Institute of Health and Welfare](#)

Relational attributes

Implementation in Data Set Specifications: [Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory Children's Health Checks: Audiology services DSS, May 2011-March 2012](#)

[Indigenous](#), Superseded 18/02/2015

Implementation start date: 01/05/2011

Implementation end date: 31/03/2012

Conditional obligation: Valid where a 'yes' response to the degree of hearing impairment indicator data element is selected.

DSS specific information:

The pure tone thresholds used to identify hearing impairment in the Audiology Services DSS are based on recommendations from Australian Hearing. They differ from the World Health Organization (WHO) standards as data relates only to children.

Coding note: If a hearing impairment measurement is provided for both left and right ear, and it is indicated which measurement relates to which ear, the hearing impairment of least severity is recorded as the response to this question (ie. the response is based on the better ear).

[Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory: Audiology services DSS, April 2012-April 2013](#)

[Indigenous](#), Superseded 18/02/2015

Implementation start date: 01/04/2012

Implementation end date: 30/04/2013

Conditional obligation: Valid where a 'yes' response to the degree of hearing impairment indicator data element is selected.

DSS specific information:

The pure tone thresholds used to identify hearing impairment in the Audiology Services DSS are based on recommendations from Australian Hearing. They differ from the World Health Organization (WHO) standards as data relates only to children.

Coding note: If a hearing impairment measurement is provided for both left and right ear, and it is indicated which measurement relates to which ear, the hearing impairment of least severity is recorded as the response to this question (ie. the response is based on the better ear).

[Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory: Audiology services DSS, May 2013-August 2014](#)

[Indigenous](#), Standard 18/02/2015

Implementation start date: 01/05/2013

Conditional obligation: Valid where a 'yes' response to the degree of hearing impairment indicator data element is selected.

DSS specific information:

The pure tone thresholds used to identify hearing impairment in the Audiology Services DSS are based on recommendations from Australian Hearing. They differ from the World Health Organization (WHO) standards as data relates only to children.

Coding note: If a hearing impairment measurement is provided for both left and right ear, and it is indicated which measurement relates to which ear, the hearing impairment of least severity is recorded as the response to this question (ie. the response is based on the better ear).