

Non-admitted patient emergency department service episode—clinical care commencement date, DDMMYYYY

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Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Emergency department clinical care commencement date
METEOR identifier:	621842
Registration status:	Health! , Superseded 05/10/2016
Definition:	The date on which emergency department non-admitted clinical care commences, expressed as DDMMYYYY.
Context:	Emergency department care.
Data Element Concept:	Non-admitted patient emergency department service episode—clinical care commencement date
Value Domain:	Date DDMMYYYY

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Date
Data type:	Date/Time
Format:	DDMMYYYY
Maximum character length:	8

Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use: Emergency department non-admitted clinical care can be commenced by a doctor, nurse, mental health practitioner or other health professional, when investigation, care and/or treatment is provided in accordance with an established clinical pathway defined by the emergency department. Placement of a patient in a cubicle and observations taken to monitor a patient pending a clinical decision regarding commencement of a clinical pathway, do not constitute commencement.

Patients with an episode end status of 'Did not wait to be attended by a healthcare professional' or 'Registered, advised of another health care service, and left the emergency department without being attended by a health care professional' should not have a clinical care commencement date, because they left before investigation, care and/or treatment was commenced by a health professional in accordance with an established clinical pathway defined by the emergency department.

The following examples illustrate the commencement of emergency department non-admitted clinical care.

Example 1

- A patient presents at the emergency department with mild asthma. At triage, the patient is categorised as category three and returns to the waiting area.
- The patient has a more severe asthma attack in the waiting area, is re-triaged to category two and shown to a cubicle where standard observations

are taken.

- A nurse comes to the cubicle and commences treatment based on an acknowledged clinical pathway of the emergency department. At this point: **emergency department clinical care has commenced.**

Example 2

- A patient presents at the emergency department in an agitated, delusional state. At triage, the patient is categorised as category two and placed in a cubicle and the mental health practitioner notified.
- Observations are taken and nursing staff continue to observe the patient.
- The mental health practitioner arrives, assesses the patient and develops a management plan. At this point: **emergency department clinical care has commenced.**

Example 3

- A patient presents at the emergency department with an ankle injury from football. At triage, the patient is categorised as category four and moved to the 'fast track area'.
- The physiotherapist attends, examines the patient, makes an assessment (including diagnostic imaging requirements) and determines a treatment plan. At this point: **emergency department clinical care has commenced.**

Example 4

- A patient presents at the emergency department with a sore arm, following a fall, with limited arm movement possible.
- The patient is categorised as category three at triage and placed in a cubicle.
- A nurse provides analgesia and assesses the patient, including ordering diagnostic imaging. At this point: **emergency department clinical care has commenced.**

Example 5

- A patient presents at the emergency department feeling vague and having been generally unwell for a day or two. The patient has a slight cough. At triage, the patient is categorised as category three.
- The patient is placed in a cubicle where standard observations are taken. Respiration is 26 bpm, BP is 90/60 and the patient is hypoxic. The patient is given oxygen, and the treating clinician attends and provides instruction regarding patient care. At this point: **emergency department clinical care has commenced.**

Example 6

- A patient presents at the emergency department with chest pain. Triage category two is allocated. The patient is placed in a cubicle and a nurse gives oxygen and Anginine, takes blood samples and conducts an ECG. The ECG is reviewed. At this point: **emergency department clinical care has commenced.**
- A doctor subsequently arrives and the patient is transferred to the catheter lab after examination.

Example 7

- The emergency department is notified by ambulance that a patient is being transported having severe behavioural problems.
- The patient is taken to an appropriate cubicle and restrained.
- A clinician administers sedation and requests the attendance of a mental health practitioner. At this point: **emergency department clinical care has commenced.**

Collection methods:

Collected in conjunction with emergency department clinical care commencement time.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation:

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Relational attributes

Related metadata references:

Supersedes [Non-admitted patient emergency department service episode—clinical care commencement date, DDMMYYYY](#)

[Health!](#), Superseded 19/11/2015

[Independent Hospital Pricing Authority](#), Standard 01/11/2012

[Tasmanian Health](#), Superseded 27/05/2020

Has been superseded by [Non-admitted patient emergency department service episode—clinical care commencement date, DDMMYYYY](#)

[Health!](#), Superseded 20/10/2021

[Tasmanian Health](#), Standard 27/05/2020

Implementation in Data Set Specifications:

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NMDS 2016-17](#)

[Health!](#), Superseded 05/10/2016

Implementation start date: 01/07/2016

Implementation end date: 30/06/2017

Conditional obligation:

This data item is to be recorded if the patient has one of the following Episode end status values recorded:

- Code 1 - Admitted to this hospital (either short stay unit, hospital-in-the-home or non-emergency department hospital ward);
- Code 2 - Non-admitted patient emergency department service episode completed - departed without being admitted or referred to another hospital;
- Code 3 - Non-admitted patient emergency department service episode completed - referred to another hospital for admission;
- Code 5 - Left at own risk after being attended by a health care professional but before the non-admitted patient emergency department service episode was completed;
- Code 6 - Died in emergency department as a non-admitted patient;
- Code 7 - Dead on arrival, emergency department clinician certified the death of the patient.

Implementation in Indicators:

Used as Numerator

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI 21b—Waiting times for emergency hospital care: proportion of patients whose length of emergency department stay is less than or equal to four hours, 2018](#)

[Health!](#), Superseded 19/06/2019