Australian Health Performance Framework: PI 2.2.3–Sentinel events, 2020

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# Australian Health Performance Framework: PI 2.2.3–Sentinel events, 2020

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| Identifying and definitional attributes |
| Metadata item type: | Indicator |
| Indicator type: | Indicator |
| Short name: | AHPF PI 2.2.3–Sentinel events, 2020 |
| METEOR identifier: | 728343 |
| Registration status: | [Health!](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/14), Qualified 16/02/2022 |
| Description: | A [**sentinel event**](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/754857) is a particular type of serious incident that is **wholly preventable** and has caused **serious harm** to, or the **death** of, a patient.To be classified a sentinel event, a strict set of criteria need to be met:* The event should not have occurred where preventive barriers are available
* The event is easily recognised and clearly defined
* There is evidence the event has occurred in the past.

Sentinel events are further specified into eight events:1. Haemolytic blood transfusion reaction resulting from ABO (blood group) incompatibility
2. Infant discharge to the wrong family
3. Intravascular gas embolism resulting in death or neurological damage
4. Maternal death associated with pregnancy, birth or the puerperium
5. Medication error leading to the death of a patient reasonably believed to be due to incorrect administration of drugs
6. Procedures involving the wrong patient or body part resulting in death or major permanent loss of function
7. Retained instruments or other material after surgery requiring re-operation or further surgical procedure
8. Suicide of a patient in an inpatient unit.
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| Rationale: | Sentinel events have the potential to seriously undermine public confidence in the healthcare system and are a subset of the most serious incidents reported through each jurisdiction’s incident reporting system. The intent is not to measure episodes that do not end in death or ongoing morbidity. |
| Indicator set: | [Australian Health Performance Framework, 2020](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/728283)[Health!](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/14), Standard 13/10/2021 |

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| Collection and usage attributes |
| Computation description: | Number of sentinel events  |
| Computation: | Count   |
| Numerator: | Number of separations with an external cause code for sentinel event and a place of occurrence of *Health service area* |
| Numerator data elements: | **Data Element / Data Set**[Episode of admitted patient care—admission date, DDMMYYYY](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/269967)**Data Source**[National Hospital Morbidity Database (NHMD)](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/394352)**NMDS / DSS**[Admitted patient care NBEDS 2017-18](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/682938)**Guide for use**Data source type: Administrative by-product data  **Data Element / Data Set**[Episode of admitted patient care—separation date, DDMMYYYY](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/270025)**Data Source**[National Hospital Morbidity Database (NHMD)](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/394352)**NMDS / DSS**[Admitted patient care NBEDS 2017-18](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/682938)**Guide for use**Data source type: Administrative by-product data  **Data Element / Data Set**[Person—person identifier, XXXXXX[X(14)]](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/290046)**Data Source**[National Hospital Morbidity Database (NHMD)](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/394352)**NMDS / DSS**[Admitted patient care NMDS 2017-18](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/641349)**Guide for use**Data source type: Administrative by-product data  **Data Element / Data Set**[Episode of admitted patient care—condition onset flag, code N](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/354816)**Data Source**[National Hospital Morbidity Database (NHMD)](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/394352)**NMDS / DSS**[Admitted patient care NBEDS 2017-18](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/682938)**Guide for use**Data source type: Administrative by-product data  **Data Element / Data Set**[Episode of care—principal diagnosis, code (ICD-10-AM 10th edn) ANN{.N[N]}](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/640978)**Data Source**[National Hospital Morbidity Database (NHMD)](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/394352)**NMDS / DSS**[Admitted patient care NMDS 2017-18](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/641349)**Guide for use**Data source type: Administrative by-product data  **Data Element / Data Set**[Episode of care—additional diagnosis, code (ICD-10-AM 10th edn) ANN{.N[N]}](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/641014)**Data Source**[National Hospital Morbidity Database (NHMD)](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/394352)**NMDS / DSS**[Admitted patient care NMDS 2017-18](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/641349)**Guide for use**Data source type: Administrative by-product data  **Data Element / Data Set**[Injury event—place of occurrence, code (ICD-10-AM 10th edn) ANN{.N[N]}](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/641422)**Data Source**[National Hospital Morbidity Database (NHMD)](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/394352)**NMDS / DSS**[Admitted patient care NBEDS 2017-18](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/682938)**Guide for use**Data source type: Administrative by-product data  |
| Disaggregation: | National reporting only |
| Comments: | 1. Sentinel events definitions can vary across jurisdictions.2. NSW data for reporting periods prior to 2016-17 include events that occurred in private hospitals and day procedure centres and are therefore not comparable with data for 2016-17.3. NSW data are sourced from the NSW Maternal and Perinatal Mortality Review Committee. Data for all prior years included in the table have been updated to reflect the modified definition‚ and are not comparable to results published in the 2014 Report and prior versions.4. Victoria has supplied data using the sentinel event definition applicable to the data collection period. Most other jurisdictions have retrospectively applied the amended definition.5. WA has supplied data using the sentinel event definition applicable to the data collection period. Most other jurisdictions have retrospectively applied the amended definition.6. The NT has supplied data using the sentinel event definition applicable to the data collection period. Most other jurisdictions have retrospectively applied the amended definition.7. The total includes sentinel events for the ACT which are not reported in the 8 sub categories of sentinel events due to confidentiality issues. |
| Representational attributes |
| Representation class: | Count |
| Data type: | Real |
| Unit of measure: | Episode |
| Format: | NN[N] |
| Data source attributes |
| Data sources: | **Data Source**[National Hospital Morbidity Database (NHMD)](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/394352)**Frequency**Annual**Data custodian**Australian Institute of Health and Welfare |
| Accountability attributes |
| Reporting requirements: | Australian Health Performance Framework |
| Source and reference attributes |
| Submitting organisation: | Australian Institute of Health and Welfare |
| Origin: | Productivity Commission |
| Reference documents: | Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. 2020. [Australian Sentinel Events List (version 2) Specifications | Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/australian-sentinel-events-list-version-2-specifications), viewed April 2021. |