

Appendix 5: Service Related Groups

Introduction

The Service Related Group (SRG) classification is based on Australian Refined Diagnosis Related Group (AR-DRG) aggregations and categorises admitted patient episodes into groups representing clinical divisions of hospital activity. SRGs are used to assist the planning of services, in analysing and comparing hospital activity, examining patterns of service needs and access, and projecting potential trends in services. For this purpose the AR-DRG system was not considered appropriate as it contains too many classes. Both the Major Diagnostic Categories (MDC) and the *International statistical classification of diseases and related health problems, 10th revision, Australian modification* (ICD-10-AM) were also considered unsuitable as they generally relate to body systems rather than services.

An example illustrating the assignment of selected procedures to SRGs is shown below. These examples illustrate the differences between categorising procedures on the basis of ICD-10-AM chapters, MDCs and SRGs.

Procedure	ICD-10-AM chapter	MDC	SRG
Extraction of wisdom teeth	Diseases of Digestive system	MDC 3 Ear Nose and Throat	Dentistry
Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP)	Diseases of Digestive system	MDC 6 Digestive System	Gastroenterology
Excision of haemorrhoids	Diseases of Digestive system	MDC 6 Digestive System	Colorectal surgery

Based on methodology originally developed by the New South Wales Department of Health, the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) developed the Specialist Service Related Group (SSRG) classification. These are largely aggregations of AR-DRG version 4.2 information. However, assignment of some separations to SSRGs is based on other information, such as procedures, diagnoses and care types. Separations with non-acute care are allocated to separate SSRG categories according to the type of care because the main service type of these separations cannot be ascertained from their diagnoses or procedures. Error DRGs become unallocated SRGs. The classification also incorporates non-specialist SRGs (NSSRGs), which are an aggregation of the SSRGs (into categories such as other non-specialty surgery) and are used for smaller hospitals that do not have the specialist services or specialist equipment.

There are 50 SRGs, 127 SSRGs and 122 NSSRGs. These are detailed in Table A5.1 in *Australian hospital statistics 2001–02* (AIHW 2003).

More information relating to SRGs, including the algorithm for assigning SRGs can be obtained from the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing.

For this appendix, separations were assigned to the SSRG or NSSRG classification depending on whether or not the hospital had a specialist *Neurosurgery*, *Perinatology* or *Cardiothoracic* unit, as appropriate, as reported to the National Public Hospital Establishments Database (see Chapter 3). SSRGs and NSSRGs were allocated using the data in the National Hospital Morbidity Database.

State and territory overview

Tables A5.1 and A5.2 accompanying this report on the Internet at www.aihw.gov.au contain the number of separations in each SRG category by state and territory for all public and private hospitals respectively. *Dialysis* (SRG 23) had the largest number of separations in public hospitals, with 663,410, followed by *Obstetrics* (SRG 72), with 286,703. In the private sector, *Diagnostic gastrointestinal endoscopy* (SRG 16) recorded the highest number of separations, with 361,332, followed by *Orthopaedics* (SRG 49), with 249,112.

Tables A5.3 and A5.4 in the internet version of this publication summarise the number of patient days in each sector by SRG and state and territory. In the public sector, *Psychiatry* (SRG 82) recorded the highest number of patient days, with 1,336,265, and *Orthopaedics* (SRG 49) recorded the highest in the private sector, with 786,987 patient days.

Table A5.5 contains the number of establishments with more than 50 separations and the number of establishments with more than 360 patient days in each SRG by state and territory and by *Remoteness Area* for public hospitals only. This has been included as an indicative measure of the number of specialty units. The best indicative measure of the number of units varies between SRGs and between uses of the measure so, for example, *Maintenance* (SRG 87) shows 108 hospitals providing more than 50 separations a year and 347 providing more than 360 patient days while *Ophthalmology* (SRG 50) shows 172 hospitals providing more than 50 separations a year and 74 providing more than 360 patient days a year. *Cardiothoracic surgery* (SRG 42) and *Neurosurgery* (SRG 46) showed no difference between the two different measures with 27 and 34 units respectively under both measures.

Non-subspecialty medicine (SRG 27) and *Non-subspecialty surgery* (SRG 54) had the greatest number of establishments with more than 50 separations at 420 and 407 respectively. *Non-subspecialty medicine* (SRG 27) also had the greatest number of establishments with more than 360 patient days a year, followed by *Maintenance* (SRG 87) with 359 and 347 establishments respectively.

Table A5.5: Hospitals with more than 50 separations and with more than 360 patient days in each Service Related Group, by Service Related Group, and Remoteness Area, public hospitals, states and territories, 2004-05

Service Related Group	NSW			Vic			Qld			WA			SA			Tas			ACT			NT			Total				
	50	360	Total	50	360	Total	50	360	Total	50	360	Total	50	360	Total	50	360	Total	50	360	Total	50	360	Total	50	360	Total		
	Septs	Days	Days	Septs	Days	Days	Septs	Days	Days	Septs	Days	Days	Septs	Days	Days	Septs	Days	Days	Septs	Days	Days	Septs	Days	Days	Septs	Days	Days		
11 Cardiology	129	103	71	56	43	75	43	20	43	22	7	5	2	2	2	5	3	363	254										
Major City	40	40	22	20	11	12	11	7	9	9	..	..	2	2	2	..	..	92	91									
Regional	84	62	49	36	30	51	30	15	28	12	7	5	0	0	0	1	1	235	154										
Remote	5	1	0	0	2	12	2	9	6	1	0	0	..	..	..	4	2	36	9									
12 Interventional cardiology	26	27	14	14	6	6	6	4	4	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	58	57										
Major City	24	26	12	12	4	4	4	3	4	3	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	49	49									
Regional	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	1	9	8										
13 Dermatology	33	11	19	9	5	16	5	7	7	3	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	87	35										
Major City	27	10	17	9	4	10	4	5	4	7	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	67	31									
Regional	6	0	2	0	1	6	1	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	1	19	3										
Remote	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1										
14 Endocrinology	61	57	39	28	19	27	19	10	14	10	3	3	2	2	2	3	3	159	133										
Major City	36	39	22	19	11	12	11	6	7	8	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	86	85									
Regional	25	18	17	9	8	14	8	4	4	6	3	3	0	0	0	1	1	70	46										
Remote	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2										
15 Gastroenterology	119	74	68	44	27	59	27	31	11	39	15	5	4	2	2	5	3	328	180										
Major City	40	39	26	22	13	13	11	10	7	9	9	..	..	2	2	2	..	100	90									
Regional	75	35	42	22	16	39	16	12	4	26	5	5	4	0	0	1	1	200	87										
Remote	4	0	0	0	0	7	0	9	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	3										
Diagnostic gastrointestinal																													
16 endoscopy	85	56	63	35	21	35	21	30	15	26	12	4	4	2	2	4	2	249	147										
Major City	37	33	21	19	11	12	11	10	9	9	8	..	..	2	2	..	..	91	82									
Regional	48	23	42	16	10	22	10	13	6	15	4	4	4	0	0	1	1	145	64										
Remote	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	7	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	13	1										
17 Haematology	76	40	52	31	19	29	19	14	5	15	8	3	3	2	2	2	1	193	109										
Major City	36	31	24	19	10	12	10	8	5	9	8	..	..	2	2	..	..	91	75									
Regional	40	9	28	12	9	17	9	5	0	5	0	3	3	0	0	1	1	99	34										
Remote	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0										
18 Immunology and infections	87	71	46	38	30	50	30	24	15	17	10	4	3	2	2	5	5	235	174										
Major City	39	38	24	22	12	12	12	7	7	9	8	..	..	2	2	..	..	93	89									
Regional	46	33	22	16	16	31	16	6	4	7	2	4	3	0	0	1	1	117	75										
Remote	2	0	0	0	2	7	2	11	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	25	10										
19 Medical oncology	60	58	39	35	25	28	25	10	6	12	13	4	6	2	2	2	2	157	147										
Major City	34	35	22	19	12	12	12	7	6	9	9	..	..	2	2	..	..	86	83									
Regional	26	23	17	16	11	16	11	3	0	3	4	4	6	0	0	1	1	70	61										
Remote	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3										

(continued)

Table A5.5: (continued) Hospitals with more than 50 separations and with more than 360 patient days in each Service Related Group, by Service Related Group, and Remoteness Area, public hospitals, states and territories, 2004-05

Service Related Group	NSW			Vic			Qld			WA			SA			Tas			ACT			NT			Total				
	50	360		50	360		50	360		50	360		50	360		50	360		50	360		50	360		50	360			
	Septs	Days		Septs	Days		Septs	Days		Septs	Days		Septs	Days		Septs	Days		Septs	Days		Septs	Days		Septs	Days			
20 Chemotherapy	12	3	30	40	3	13	7	5	12	8	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	99	62			
Major City	11	3	15	17	6	6	4	4	8	8	..	..	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	48	37		
Regional	1	0	23	23	15	7	3	1	4	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	50	25			
Remote	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0			
21 Neurology	111	92	56	56	48	33	29	16	36	20	7	6	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	296	219			
Major City	42	44	23	23	20	13	9	9	10	10	..	..	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	97	98		
Regional	67	48	33	33	28	19	13	7	23	9	7	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	182	118			
Remote	2	0	0	0	0	1	7	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	3			
22 Renal medicine	50	37	31	25	22	16	9	3	8	7	3	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	127	93			
Major City	34	29	21	18	11	9	7	3	7	6	..	..	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	82	66		
Regional	16	8	10	7	10	7	2	0	1	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	43	26		
Remote	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2			
23 Dialysis	43	33	56	43	13	13	9	9	13	11	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	141	116		
Major City	16	16	18	18	5	5	5	5	7	7	..	..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	..	52	52	
Regional	23	17	38	25	8	8	3	3	4	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	79	59		
Remote	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	5		
24 Respiratory medicine	136	126	80	76	79	55	39	28	45	30	9	9	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	5	395	331		
Major City	42	44	26	26	14	13	9	9	10	9	..	..	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	..	103	103	
Regional	86	79	54	50	51	36	17	13	30	20	9	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	248	208		
Remote	8	3	0	0	14	6	13	6	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	44	20	
25 Rheumatology	23	16	17	11	12	3	5	4	6	3	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	69	40		
Major City	20	16	14	10	7	3	4	4	6	3	..	..	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	..	53	37	
Regional	3	0	3	1	5	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	15	3		
26 Pain management	23	7	27	9	11	4	7	5	7	1	3	1	2	0	1	2	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	81	27		
Major City	21	7	15	8	7	4	6	5	5	1	..	..	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	..	56	25	
Regional	2	0	12	1	4	0	1	0	2	0	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	..	25	2		
27 Non-specialist medicine	142	130	90	86	82	55	39	32	52	39	8	10	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	5	420	359		
Major City	53	54	30	28	15	14	11	12	13	13	..	..	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	..	124	123	
Regional	83	74	60	58	51	37	16	14	31	22	8	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	250	216		
Remote	6	2	0	0	16	4	12	6	8	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	46	20		
41 Breast surgery	32	5	27	12	14	5	5	2	5	3	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	88	27		
Major City	23	5	17	10	6	4	3	2	5	3	..	..	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	..	55	24	
Regional	9	0	10	2	8	1	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	..	33	3		
42 Cardiothoracic surgery	10	10	6	6	3	3	4	4	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	27	27		
Major City	10	10	6	6	2	2	4	4	2	2	..	..	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	..	25	25	
Regional	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2		

(continued)

Table A5.5: (continued) Hospitals with more than 50 separations and with more than 360 patient days in each Service Related Group, by Service Related Group, and Remoteness Area, public hospitals, states and territories, 2004-05

Service Related Group	NSW			Vic			WA			SA			Tas			ACT			NT			Total								
	50	360		50	360		50	360		50	360		50	360		50	360		50	360		50	360		50	360				
	Seps	Days		Seps	Days		Seps	Days		Seps	Days		Seps	Days		Seps	Days		Seps	Days		Seps	Days		Seps	Days		Seps	Days	
82 Psychiatry	90	56	47	39	31	18	25	19	16	28	16	11	5	6	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	230	158	
Major City	42	35	30	27	11	9	8	11	12	12	11	11	..	..	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	105	95	
Regional	47	21	17	12	18	9	11	7	15	4	4	4	5	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	114	60	
Remote	1	0	0	0	2	0	6	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	1	1	11	3	
83 Non-acute psychiatry	6	11	14	20	4	9	3	7	2	2	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	50	
Major City	6	7	11	13	2	4	3	7	2	2	2	2	..	..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	24	33	
Regional	0	4	3	7	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	17	
84 Rehabilitation	73	81	32	39	24	39	9	16	10	13	4	4	3	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	155	196	
Major City	42	41	18	20	12	13	8	9	6	8	8	8	..	..	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	88	93	
Regional	31	40	14	19	12	25	1	6	4	4	4	4	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	66	99	
Remote	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	4	
85 Geriatric	4	9	33	34	2	5	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	42	52	
Major City	2	4	19	19	2	2	3	3	0	0	0	0	..	..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	26	28	
Regional	2	4	14	15	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	23	
86 Palliation	28	37	18	26	16	21	0	4	5	8	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	70	99	
Major City	16	17	10	10	10	9	0	2	4	5	5	5	..	..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	41	44	
Regional	12	20	8	16	6	11	0	2	1	3	3	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	54	
Remote	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
87 Maintenance	42	114	15	61	29	70	9	43	7	45	4	4	4	9	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	3	3	3	108	347	
Major City	19	28	13	18	12	12	5	11	6	10	10	10	..	..	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	..	..	..	56	81	
Regional	22	78	2	43	15	47	4	21	1	22	4	4	4	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	49	221	
Remote	1	8	0	0	2	11	0	11	0	13	0	0	0	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	45	
88 Psychogeriatric	2	9	4	11	1	2	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	28	
Major City	2	6	4	9	1	1	3	6	0	0	0	0	..	..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	22	
Regional	0	3	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	
99 Error	12	21	12	15	5	6	4	4	5	6	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	41	
Major City	10	16	10	13	4	4	4	4	5	6	6	6	..	..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	34	44	
Regional	2	5	2	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	12	
Remote	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

.. Not applicable

Note: Rows for regions with no apparent units are not shown. Service related groups definitions using Version 4.2 AR DRGs