

## Appendix A: The National Health Data Committee membership

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## Appendix B: Format for data element definitions

### ISO/IEC 11179-based standards

All data element definitions included in the National Health Data Dictionary are presented in a format based on ISO/IEC Standard 11179 *Specification and Standardization of Data Elements* – the international standard for defining data elements issued by the International Organization for Standardization and the International Electrotechnical Commission. Collectively, the format describes a set of attributes for data definitions. The set of attributes for data definitions used in the *National Health Data Dictionary* are described below.

Where an optional attribute is not populated with any information, the attribute is not listed in the data element description.

### NHDD information

**Admin. status:** The operational status (e.g. CURRENT, SUPERSEDED) of the data element or data element concept and the date from which this status is effective. For example, in the NHDD the latest revision of 'Client type – alcohol and other drug treatment services' effective from 1 July 2002 has a 'CURRENT' status, replacing the previous version of this data element operational from 1 July 2000 until 30 June 2002 which now has a 'SUPERSEDED' status. No SUPERSEDED data elements are included in this hard copy publication of the Dictionary. However, all data elements, including SUPERSEDED data elements, are included on the Knowledgebase.

**Knowledgebase ID:** A 6-digit number used to identify the data element on the Knowledgebase (previously known as the NHIK). In the Knowledgebase, this number is preceded by an acronym that identifies the Registration Authority for each data element. The National Health Information Management Group (NHIMG) is the Registration Authority for all data elements included in the Dictionary. The combination of Registration Authority, Knowledgebase (or NHIK) ID and Version Number (see below) uniquely identifies each data element in the Knowledgebase.

**Version number:** A version number for each data element, beginning with 1 for the initial version of the data element, and 2, 3 etc. for each subsequent revision. This meets the ISO/IEC Standard 11179 requirement for 'identification of a data element specification in a series of evolving data element specifications within a registration authority'. A new version number is allocated to a data element/concept when changes have been made to one or more of the following attributes of the definition:

- Name
- Definition
- Data Domain

## Identifying and definitional attributes

**Name:** A single or multi-word designation assigned to a data element. This appears in the heading for each unique data definition in the Dictionary.

**Data element type:** A data element may be either:

- a. a DATA ELEMENT CONCEPT – a concept which can be represented in the form of a data element, described independently of any particular representation. For example, hospital ‘admission’ is a process, which does not have any particular representation of its own, except through data elements such as ‘admission date’, ‘mode of admission’, etc.
- b. a DATA ELEMENT – a unit of data for which the definition, identification, representation and permissible values are specified by means of a set of attributes. For example, a hospital ‘admission date’ is a unit of data for which the definition, identification, representation and permissible values are specified.
- c. a DERIVED DATA ELEMENT – a data element whose values are derived by calculation from the values of other data elements. For example, the data element ‘Length of stay’ which is derived by calculating the number of days from ‘Admission date’ to ‘Separation date’ less any ‘Total leave days’;
- d. a COMPOSITE DATA ELEMENT – a data element whose values represent a grouping of the values of other data elements in a specified order. For example, the data element ‘Establishment identifier’ is a grouping of the data elements ‘State identifier’, ‘Establishment type’, ‘Region’ and ‘Establishment number’ in that order.

**Definition:** A statement that expresses the essential nature of a data element and its differentiation from all other data elements.

**Context:** A designation or description of the application environment or discipline in which a name is applied or from which it originates. For example, the context for ‘Admission date’ is ‘Admitted patients’, while the context for ‘Capital expenditure – gross’ is ‘Health expenditure’. For the Dictionary this attribute may also include the justification for collecting the items and uses of the information.

## Relational and representational attributes

**Data type:** The type of symbol, character or other designation used to represent a data element. Examples include integer, numeric, alphanumeric, etc. For example, the data type for ‘Intended place of birth’ is a numeric drawn from a domain or codeset in which numeric characters such as 1 = hospital, 4 = home are used to denote a data domain value (*see* Data domain below).

<b>Field size (minimum and maximum):</b>	The minimum and maximum number, respectively, of storage units (of the corresponding datatype) to represent the data element value. For example, a data element value expressed in dollars may require a minimum field size of one character (1) up to a maximum field size of nine characters (999, 999, 999). Field size does not generally include characters used to mark logical separations of values, e.g commas, hyphens or slashes.
<b>Layout:</b>	The <i>Representational</i> layout of characters in data element values expressed by a character string representation. Examples include 'DDMMYYYY' for calendar date, 'N' for a 1-digit numeric field, and '\$\$\$,\$\$\$,\$\$\$' for data elements about expenditure.
<b>Data domain:</b>	The set of representations of permissible instances of the data element, according to the representation form, layout, data type and maximum size specified in the corresponding attributes. The set can be specified by name (including an existing classification/code scheme such as ICD-10-AM), by reference to a source (such as the <i>ABS Directory of concepts and standards for social, labour and demographic statistics, 1995</i> ), or by enumeration of the representation of the instances (for example, for 'Compensable status' values are 1 = Compensable 2 = Non-compensable).
<b>Guide for use (optional):</b>	Additional comments or advice on the interpretation or application of the attribute 'data domain' (this attribute has no direct counterpart in the ISO/IEC Standard 11179 but has been included to assist in clarification of issues relating to the classification of data elements).
<b>Verification rules (optional):</b>	The rules and/or instructions applied for validating and/or verifying data elements occurring in actual communication and/or databases, in addition to the formal screening based on the requirements laid down in the basic attributes.
<b>Collection methods (optional):</b>	Comments and advice concerning the actual capture of data for the particular data element, including guidelines on the design of questions for use in collecting information, and treatment of 'not stated' or non-response (this attribute is not specified in the ISO/IEC Standard 11179 but has been added to cover important issues about the actual collection of data).
<b>Related data (optional):</b>	A reference between the data element (or data element concept) and any related data element/concept in the Dictionary, including the type of this relationship. Examples include: 'has been superseded by the data element...', 'is calculated using the data element...', and 'supplements the data element...'.

## **Administrative attributes**

<b>Source document (optional):</b>	The document from which definitional or representational attributes originate.
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<b>Source organisation:</b>	The organisation responsible for the source document and/or the development of the data definition (this attribute is not specified in the ISO/IEC Standard 11179 but has been added for completeness). The Source organisation is not necessarily the organisation responsible for the ongoing development/maintenance of the data element definition.
<b>National minimum data sets (optional):</b>	The name of any national minimum data set established under the auspice of the National Health Information Agreement (NHIA) which includes the particular data element. The date of first effect is also included.
<b>Comments (optional):</b>	Any additional explanatory remarks on the data element.

## Appendix C: Data elements in common with other NMDSS

Data element	Concept	Admitted patient care	Public hospital establishments	Admitted patient mental health care	Alcohol and other drug treatment services	Community mental health care	Community mental health establishments	Elective surgery waiting times	Emergency Dept. waiting times	Health labour force	Injury surveillance	Admitted patient palliative care	Perinatal
Activity when injured, version 2		✓									✓		✓
Actual place of birth, version 1													✓
Acute care episode for admitted patients, version 1	✓												
Additional diagnosis, version 4		✓		✓								✓	
Administrative expenses, version 1			✓				✓						
Admission, version 3	✓												
Admission date, version 4		✓		✓								✓	
Admitted patient election status, version 1		✓		✓									
Area of usual residence, version 3		✓		✓								✓	
Birth order, version 1													✓
Birth plurality, version 1													✓
Birthweight, version 1	✓												✓
Bodily location of main injury, version 1											✓		
Capital expenditure, version 1			✓										
Capital expenditure—gross (accrual accounting), version 2			✓										
Capital expenditure—net (accrual accounting), version 2			✓										
Category reassignment date, version 2								✓					
Care type, version 4		✓		✓								✓	
Census date, version 2								✓					
Cessation of treatment episode for alcohol and other drugs, version 2	✓												



<b>Data element</b>	Concept	Admitted patient care	Public hospital establishments	Admitted patient mental health care	Alcohol and other drug treatment services	Community mental health care	Community mental health establishments	Elective surgery waiting times	Emergency Dept. waiting times	Health labour force	Injury surveillance	Admitted patient palliative care	Perinatal
Employment status—public psychiatric hospital admissions, version 2				✓									
Episode of care, version 1	✓	✓											
Establishment identifier, version 2				✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓
Establishment number, version 2		✓	✓	✓					✓				✓
Establishment sector, version 2		✓	✓	✓									✓
Establishment type, version 1		✓	✓										
Extended wait patient, version 1								✓					
External cause—admitted patient, version 4		✓									✓		
External cause—human intent, version 4											✓		
First day of last menstrual period, version 1													✓
Food supplies, version 1			✓				✓						
Full-time equivalent staff, version 2			✓										
Geographical location of establishment, version 2			✓		✓		✓						
Gestational age, version 1	✓												✓
Group sessions, version 1			✓										
Health labour force, version 1	✓									✓			
Hospital boarder, version 1	✓	✓	✓										
Hospital census, version 1	✓												
Hospital insurance status, version 3			✓	✓									
Hospital waiting list, version 1	✓							✓					
Hospital, version 1	✓	✓	✓										
Hours on-call (not worked) by medical practitioner, version 2										✓			
Hours worked by health professional, version 2										✓			

<b>Data element</b>	Concept	Admitted patient care	Public hospital establishments	Admitted patient mental health care	Alcohol and other drug treatment services	Community mental health care	Community mental health establishments	Elective surgery waiting times	Emergency Dept. waiting times	Health labour force	Injury surveillance	Admitted patient palliative care	Perinatal
Hours worked by medical practitioner in direct patient care, version 2										✓			
Indicator procedure, version 3								✓					
Indigenous status, version 3		✓		✓	✓	✓						✓	✓
Indirect health care expenditure, version 1			✓										
Individual/group session, version 1			✓										
Infant weight, neonate, stillborn, version 3		✓											✓
Injecting drug use, version 1					✓								
Intended length of hospital stay, version 1		✓											
Interest payments, version 1			✓				✓						
Inter-hospital contracted patient, version 2		✓											
Listing date, version 2								✓					
Live birth, version 1	✓	✓											✓
Major diagnostic category, version 1		✓		✓									
Marital status, version 2				✓									
Medical and surgical supplies, version 1			✓				✓						
Medicare eligibility status, version 1		✓		✓								✓	
Mental health legal status, version 4		✓		✓		✓							✓
Method of birth, version 1													
Method of use for principal drug of concern, version 1					✓								
Mode of admission, version 4		✓		✓								✓	
Mode of separation, version 3		✓		✓								✓	
Narrative description of injury event, version 1											✓		
Nature of main injury—non-admitted patient, version 1											✓		

<b>Data element</b>	Concept	Admitted patient care	Public hospital establishments	Admitted patient mental health care	Alcohol and other drug treatment services	Community mental health care	Community mental health establishments	Elective surgery waiting times	Emergency Dept. waiting times	Health labour force	Injury surveillance	Admitted patient palliative care	Perinatal
Neonatal death, version 1	✓												✓
Neonate, version 1	✓	✓											✓
Newborn qualification status, version 2	✓	✓											
Non-admitted patient, version 1	✓	✓	✓										
Non-elective care, version 1	✓							✓					
Non-salary operating costs, version 1							✓						
Number of available beds for admitted patients, version 2			✓				✓						
Number of leave periods, version 3		✓	✓	✓									
Number of qualified days for newborns, version 2		✓											
Number of service contact dates, version 2						✓							
Number of service contacts within a treatment episode for alcohol and other drugs, version 2					✓								
Occurrences of service, version 1			✓										
Onset of labour, version 1													✓
Organ procurement—posthumous, version 1	✓	✓											
Other drugs of concern, version 1					✓								
Other recurrent expenditure, version 1			✓				✓						
Other revenues, version 1			✓										
Overdue patient, version 3								✓					
Overnight-stay patient, version 2	✓	✓	✓										
Patient, version 1	✓	✓											
Patient days, version 3			✓										
Patient listing status, version 3								✓					



	Concept	Admitted patient care	Public hospital establishments	Admitted patient mental health care	Alcohol and other drug treatment services	Community mental health care	Community mental health establishments	Elective surgery waiting times	Emergency Dept. waiting times	Health labour force	Injury surveillance	Admitted patient palliative care	Perinatal
<b>Data element</b>													
Separations, version 2		✓					✓						
Service contact, version 1	✓												
Service contact date, version 1				✓									
Sex, version 2		✓		✓	✓							✓	✓
Source of referral to alcohol and other drug treatment services, version 1					✓								
Source of referral to public psychiatric hospital, version 3		✓											
Specialised service indicators, version 1			✓										
State identifier, version 2		✓	✓	✓									✓
State/Territory of birth, version 1													✓
Status of the baby, version 1													✓
Stillbirth (foetal death), version 1	✓												✓
Superannuation employer contributions (including funding basis), version 1			✓				✓						
Surgical speciality, version 1								✓					
Teaching status, version 1			✓										
Time of triage, version 1									✓				
Time patient presents, version 1									✓				
Total full-time equivalent staff, version 1													
Total hours worked by medical practitioner, version 2										✓			
Total leave days, version 3		✓		✓									
Total psychiatric care days, version 2		✓		✓			✓						
Triage category, version 1									✓				
Type and sector of employment establishment, version 1										✓			

<b>Data element</b>	Concept	Admitted patient care	Public hospital establishments	Admitted patient mental health care	Alcohol and other drug treatment services	Community mental health care	Community mental health establishments	Elective surgery waiting times	Emergency Dept. waiting times	Health labour force	Injury surveillance	Admitted patient palliative care	Perinatal
Type of accommodation, version 2				✓									
Type of non-admitted patient care (public psychiatric, alcohol and drug), version 1			✓										
Type of non-admitted patient care, version 1			✓										
Type of usual accommodation, version 1				✓									
Type of visit, version 1									✓				
Urgency of admission, version 1		✓											
Waiting list category, version 3								✓					
Waiting time at a census date, version 1								✓					
Waiting time at admission, version 1								✓					

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# Feedback form

## National Health Data Dictionary

By Post	By facsimile
Secretariat National Health Data Committee GPO Box 570 Canberra ACT 2601	(02) 6244 1255

Or use the feedback on the AIHW website:

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