

National Health Data Dictionary

Version 12

Volume 1

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare is Australia's national health and welfare statistics and information agency. The Institute's mission is to improve the health and well-being of Australians by informing community discussion and decision making through national leadership in developing and providing health and welfare statistics and information.

National Health Data Dictionary

Version 12

Volume 1

National Health Data Committee

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Foreword

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare is pleased to produce the twelfth version of the *National Health Data Dictionary* (NHDD), which is a vital tool for use in ensuring the quality of Australian health data.

It is only through the cooperation and consensus of Australia's health sector that it is possible to produce in the Dictionary a set of core definitions and data items for use in all Australian health data collections. All Australian health departments, the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, the National Centre for Classification in Health, the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Australian Private Hospitals Association, representatives of the private health insurance industry and the Health Insurance Commission cooperate in this endeavour.

With significant Commonwealth electronic health initiatives such as HealthConnect and Health Online it is imperative that the health care community maintains the ability to standardise the terminology definitions used in the collection, transmission and analysis of health information. In 2002 the Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council endorsed the Dictionary as the authoritative source of national standard definitions for use in clinical care delivery. This twelfth version of the Dictionary contains nationally endorsed definitions for use in the clinical management of cardiovascular disease and diabetes mellitus. Enhancements have also been made to definitions related to body mass index to include measurements related to child and adolescent overweight and obesity.

In order to maintain the ability of the Dictionary to perform its main function in this ever-changing environment the decision has been taken to publish the hard copy in a new format and to significantly upgrade the prominence of the electronic metadata registry, the Knowledgebase, on the Institute's web site.

The Knowledgebase has been updated to incorporate this twelfth version of the Dictionary and is accessible via the Institute's Internet home page (<http://www.aihw.gov.au>). In coming months the web site will be undergoing some changes in order to enhance the prominence of the Knowledgebase and to significantly expand its functionality.

Version 12 of the Dictionary will take advantage of recent international developments in relation to the administration of metadata registries by incorporating some of the format based on the ISO/IEC Draft International Standard 11179-3:2002. Version 13 will continue with a full implementation of this International Standard. The standard definitions in this publication identify their alignment to entities in the National Health Information Model (Draft Version 2).

Use of the Dictionary will help ensure that data elements are collected uniformly by all services and jurisdictions throughout Australia and thereby improve the quality of health care and the information available for community discussion and public policy debate on health issues in Australia.

Thanks are due to David Neilsen, Trish Ryan, Robyn Kingham Edwards and Diana Ekeroth (Institute staff who have prepared the material for this twelfth edition) and to all members of the National Health Data Committee who have overseen its preparation.

The Dictionary's content is expanding beyond institutional health care into other sectors of health care. It goes beyond standards primarily derived to support statistical analyses into standards directly related to clinical care. Future developments will include integration of definitions across the health and community services sectors, reflecting the public focus on service integration and realities of the contemporary health care delivery environment.

I urge all collectors of health-related data in Australia and those involved in developing standards for the recording and transmission of data related to clinical care to use the Dictionary.

Richard Madden
Director
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

How to use this book

Format of publication

The *National Health Data Dictionary* Version 12 has been divided into two volumes to cope with the significant expansion in the number of definitions endorsed for this version.

Volume 1

- Full Contents list for both volumes
- Introduction
- Summary of changes since Versions 10 and 11
Contains a summary of all changes since Version 10 and 11 of the *National Health Data Dictionary*, including changes to National Minimum Data Sets and data elements, new data elements and data elements retired from the Dictionary.
- National Health Information Model
Contains background information to the National Health Information Model Version 2 (Draft) and an index of the data elements and model entities.
- Data elements: A to M in alphabetical order
- Full Index for both volumes

Volume 2

- Full Contents list for both volumes
- Data elements: N to Z in alphabetical order the
- Data Set Specifications
Contains a full description of all data set specifications for National Minimum Data Sets and other data set specifications.
- Appendixes
- Full Index for both volumes

Formatting conventions

- Only metadata items with an Admin. status of CURRENT are published in this book.
- Each metadata item is divided into three sections:
 - Identifying and Definitional Attributes
 - used to identify the metadata item in the Registry; and
 - used to provide a definition, the context in which the definition is valid and any relevant comments that help in defining the metadata item
 - Relational and representational attributes
 - used to record what such a data item would look like and how it is used.
 - Administrative attributes
 - the attributes of the metadata item that are relevant to the Registry.
- Links to the National Health Information Model are identified in each data element.

Not all attributes have instances of information.

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