

Glossary

Additional diagnoses

Diagnoses or conditions other than the principal diagnosis that affect a person's care in terms of requiring:

- therapeutic treatment;
- clinical evaluation;
- diagnostic procedure;
- extended length of stay; or
- increased nursing care and/or monitoring.

Additional diagnoses include:

- co-morbid conditions, that is, co-existing conditions; and/or
- complications, that is, conditions that arose during the episode of care.

Additional procedures

All additional procedures undertaken during an episode of care.

Age-standardised rates

All estimates have been age-standardised (Armitage & Berry 1987) to the estimated total mid-year Australian population in 1991. This produces an estimate of the rate which would have prevailed in the standard population if it had experienced the age-specific rates for the given condition or action taken.

Direct age standardisation, using the five year age groups (0-4, 5-9, ..., 75-79, 80+ years), was estimated as follows:

$$ASR = \sum r_i P_i / \sum P_i$$

where ASR is the age-standardised rate, r_i is the age-specific rate for age group i , and P_i is the standard population in age group i .

Australian National Diagnosis Related Groups (AN-DRGs)

DRGs are a means of classifying hospital patients to provide a common basis for comparing factors such as cost effectiveness and quality of care across hospitals. Each AN-DRG represents a class of patient with similar clinical conditions requiring similar hospital services.

Average length of stay

Average length of stay is calculated as the total patient days for all patients separating during the reporting period divided by the number of patients separating.

Patient days

The number of full or partial days of stay for patients who were admitted for an episode of care and who underwent separation during the reporting period. A patient who is admitted and separated on the same day is allocated one patient day.

Principal diagnosis

The diagnosis established after study to be chiefly responsible for occasioning the patient's episode of care in hospital (National Health Data Committee 1995).

Principal procedure

The most significant procedure that was performed for treatment of the principal diagnosis (National Health Data Committee 1995).

Procedure

A procedure is one that (National Health Data Committee 1995):

- is surgical in nature;
- carries a procedural risk;
- carries an anaesthetic risk;
- requires specialised training; or
- requires special facilities or equipment only available in an acute care setting.

Separation

Separation is the process by which an admitted patient completes an episode of care, for example leaving the hospital by being discharged, by dying, by being transferred to another hospital for further care, or by beginning a new episode of care which results in a significant change in status (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 1996a). Generally, a separation is synonymous with discharge (National Health Ministers 1996). Separations are counted instead of admissions because some information that classifies the episode of care can be determined only after the episode has concluded. For acute hospitals, the number of separations will be similar to the number of admissions for the same reporting period.

Index of data sources and their uses in this report

Australian and New Zealand Cardiothoracic Organ Transplant Registry

Hospital care – information about all heart and heart-lung transplants performed in Australia and New Zealand

Australian Bureau of Statistics' National Health Survey 1995

Non-hospital care – estimates of the self-reported prevalence of cardiovascular conditions and health related actions taken for these conditions.

Hospital care – estimates of the self-reported prevalence of recent hospitalisation (i.e. in the two weeks prior to interview) and hospitalisation in the 12 months prior to interview for cardiovascular conditions.

Drug use – estimates of the self-reported use of medications for cardiovascular conditions.

Australian casemix data

Hospital care – information on hospital activity for cardiovascular disease as measured by Australian National Diagnosis Related Groups (AN-DRGs).

Health care costs – information on average costs and costs by volume for AN-DRGs.

Disease Costs and Impact Study

Health care costs – estimates of health care costs for cardiovascular diseases 1993–94.

Drug Utilization SubCommittee database

Drug use – estimates of the community (i.e. non-public hospital) use of prescription medicines in Australia, and the costs of prescriptions subsidised by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

Hunter Region Heart Disease Prevention Programme Risk Factor Prevalence Study

Non-hospital care – estimates of history of medical conditions and treatment.

Drug use – information on aspirin use.

Medical Labour Force Survey

Medical labour force—estimates of the numbers of practitioners registered and working in the specialties of cardiology, cardiothoracic surgery and vascular surgery.

Medicare and Department of Veterans' Affairs medical benefits data

Hospital care—information on the number of medical services provided and benefits paid for cardiovascular medical services that qualify for benefits under Medicare or the Department of Veterans' Affairs medical benefits schemes.

National Heart Foundation angioplasty register

Hospital care—information on all angioplasty performed in Australia.

National Heart Foundation cardiac surgery register

Hospital care—information on all cardiac surgery performed in Australia.

National Heart Foundation Risk Factor Prevalence Study

Non-hospital care—estimates of history of medical conditions and treatment.

National Hospital Morbidity database

Hospital care—estimates of the number of separations and the average length of stay for cardiovascular conditions and cardiovascular procedures in public and private acute care hospitals.

Newcastle MONICA Project

Hospital care—information on acute care for suspected cases of heart attack or coronary death among residents aged 25 to 69 years in the local government areas of Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Cessnock and Port Stephens.

Drug use—information on drugs prescribed before onset of the coronary event, during the event for those who went to hospital, and at discharge for those who went to hospital and were discharged alive.

Perth MONICA Project

Drug use—information is available on drugs prescribed before onset of the coronary event, during the event for those who went to hospital, and at discharge for those who went to hospital and were discharged alive.

Survey of Morbidity and Treatment in General Practice in Australia 1990–91

Non-hospital care—estimates of cardiovascular morbidity and its treatment in general practice.

Drug use – estimates of drugs prescribed for cardiovascular conditions and the use of specific cardiovascular drugs.

The 1995 Public Hospital Elective Surgery Waiting List Survey

Hospital care – information about elective surgery waiting lists in Australian public hospitals.

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