

Appendix A: Data definitions

The detailed data definitions for the data elements of the NMDS for alcohol and other drug treatment services are published in the AIHW National Health Data Dictionary Version 9 (AIHW 2000) and on the AIHW Knowledgebase. The data element extracts from version 9 of the National Health Data Dictionary are provided on the following pages with the relevant page numbers provided in Table 1.

Table 1: Data elements for the NMDS for alcohol and other drug treatment services, for collection from 1 July 2000.

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Notes

- All data elements are defined in the National Health Data Dictionary, Version 9.0 (AIHW 2000)
- The Knowledgebase: Australia's health and community services data registry can be accessed through the AIHW Internet home page at <http://www.aihw.gov.au>.

Cessation of treatment

Admin. status: CURRENT 01/07/2000

Identifying and definitional attributes

Knowledgebase ID: 000422 **Version number:** 1

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT CONCEPT

Definition: Cessation of treatment is the decision to complete treatment or to discontinue further service contact by either a client and/or a service provider.

Context: Alcohol and other drug treatment services

Relational and representational attributes

Data type: **Representational form:**

Field size: **Min.** **Max.** **Representational layout:**

Data domain:

Guide for use: A client is identified as ceasing treatment if one or more of the following apply:
—their need for the treatment service has ended;
—they have had no contact with the service for a period of three months nor plan in place for further contact;
—their Principal drug of concern has changed.

Verification rules:

Collection methods:

Related data: Relates to the data element Reason for cessation of treatment, version 1
Relates to the data element Date of cessation of treatment, version 1

Administrative attributes

Source document:

Source organisation: Inter-governmental Committee on Drugs National Minimum Data Set Working Group

National minimum data sets:

Alcohol and other drug treatment services from 01/07/2000 to

Client type

Admin. status: CURRENT 1/07/2000

Identifying and definitional attributes

Knowledgebase ID: 000426 **Version number:** 1

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Definition: The status of a person in terms of whether contact with the service concerns their own alcohol and/or other drug use or that of another person.

Context: Alcohol and other drug treatment services. Required to differentiate between clients to provide a basis for description of the people accessing alcohol and other drug treatment services.

Relational and representational attributes

Data type: Numeric **Representational form:** CODE

Field size: **Min.** 1 **Max.** 1 **Representational layout:** N

Data domain:

1	Own drug use
2	Other's drug use
3	Both own and other's drug use
9	Not stated/inadequately described

Guide for use:

Code 1 A client who contacts a service to receive treatment or assistance concerning their own alcohol and/or other drug use. These clients are sometimes referred to as primary clients.

Code 2 A client who contacts a service to receive support and/or assistance in relation to the alcohol and/or other drug use of another person. These clients are sometimes referred to as secondary clients.

Code 3 A client who contacts a service to receive treatment or assistance concerning both their own alcohol and/or other drug use and the alcohol and/or other drug use of another person.

Verification rules:

Collection methods: To be collected on commencement of treatment with a service.

Related data:

Administrative attributes

Source document:

Source organisation: Inter-governmental Committee on Drugs National Minimum Data Set Working Group

National minimum data sets:

Alcohol and other drug treatment services from 1/07/2000 to

Comments:

Commencement of treatment

Admin. status: CURRENT 01/07/2000

Identifying and definitional attributes

Knowledgebase ID: 000427 **Version number:** 1

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT CONCEPT

Definition: Commencement of treatment is the first service contact when assessment and/or treatment occurs with the service provider.

Context: Alcohol and other drug treatment services

Relational and representational attributes

Data type: **Representational form:**

Field size: **Min.** **Max.** **Representational layout:**

Data domain:

Guide for use: A client is identified as commencing treatment if one or more of the following apply:
—they are a new client;
—they have had no contact with the service for a period of three months, nor plan in place for further contact;
—their Principal drug of concern has changed.

Commencement would not normally include client intake before assessment, for example those clients on waiting lists, nor would it include telephone or triage assessment.

Verification rules:

Collection methods:

Related data:

Administrative attributes

Source document:

Source organisation: Inter-governmental Committee on Drugs National Minimum Data Set Working Group

National minimum data sets:

Alcohol and other drug treatment services from 1/07/00 to

Comments:

Country of birth

Admin. status: CURRENT 1/07/1994

Identifying and definitional attributes

Knowledgebase ID: 000035 **Version number:** 2

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Definition: The country in which the person was born.

Context: Country of birth is important in the study of access to services by different population subgroups. Country of birth is the most easily collected and consistently reported of possible data items. The item provides a link between the Census of Population and Housing, other ABS statistical collections and regional data collections. Country of birth may be used in conjunction with other data elements such as period of residence in Australia, etc., to derive more sophisticated measures of access to services by different population subgroups.

Relational and representational attributes

Data type: Numeric **Representational form:** CODE

Field size: *Min.* 4 *Max.* 4 **Representational layout:** NNNN

Data domain: Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics (ASCCSS) 4-digit (individual country) level. ABS catalogue no. 1269.0

Guide for use: A country, even if it comprises other discrete political entities such as states, is treated as a single unit for all data domain purposes. Parts of a political entity are not included in different groups. Thus, Hawaii is included in Northern America (as part of the identified country United States of America), despite being geographically close to and having similar social and cultural characteristics as the units classified to Polynesia in the ASCCSS.

Verification rules:

Related data: Supersedes previous data element Country of Birth, version 1.

Administrative attributes

Source document: ABS Catalogue No. 1269.0

Source organisation: Australian Bureau of Statistics

National minimum data sets:

Admitted patient care	from 1/07/2000 to
Admitted patient mental health care	from 1/07/2000 to
Perinatal	from 1/07/1997 to
Admitted patient palliative care	from 1/07/2000 to
Alcohol and other drug treatment services	from 1/07/2000 to

Comments:

The Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics (ASCCSS) in ABS catalogue no. 1269.0 has been superseded by the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC) (ABS 1269.0 1998).

While not formally adopted by the National Health Data Committee (NHDC), the use of SACC is consistent with the data domains described, as there is a direct concordance between the two classifications.

The NHDC will be evaluating this data element in 2000.

Date of birth

Admin. status: CURRENT 1/07/1994

Identifying and definitional attributes

Knowledgebase ID: 000036 **Version number:** 2

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Definition: The date of birth of the person.

Context: Required to derive age for demographic analyses, for analysis by age at a point of time and for use to derive a Diagnosis Related Group (admitted patients).

Relational and representational attributes

Data type: Numeric **Representational form:** DATE

Field size: **Min.** 8 **Max.** 8 **Representational layout:** DDMMYYYY

Data domain: Valid dates

Guide for use: If date of birth is not known, provision should be made to collect age (in years) and a date of birth derived from age.

Verification rules: For the provision of State and Territory hospital data to commonwealth agencies this field must:
— be <= Admission date, otherwise resulting in a fatal error;
— not be null;
— be consistent with diagnoses and procedure codes, for records to be grouped, otherwise resulting in a fatal error.

Collection methods: It is recommended that in cases where all components of the date of birth are not known or where an estimate is arrived at from age, a valid date be used together with a flag to indicate that it is an estimate.

Related data: Supersedes previous data element Date of Birth, version 1
Is used in the derivation of Diagnosis related group, version 1

Administrative attributes

Source document:

Source organisation: National Health Data Committee

National minimum data sets:

Admitted patient care from 1/07/2000 to

Health labour force from 1/07/1989 to

Admitted patient mental health care from 1/07/2000 to

Perinatal from 1/07/1997 to

Alcohol and other drug treatment services from 1/07/2000 to

Community mental health care
Admitted patient palliative care

from 1/07/2000 to
from 1/07/2000 to

Comments:

Date of commencement of treatment

Admin. status: CURRENT 1/07/2000

Identifying and definitional attributes

Knowledgebase ID: 000430 **Version number:** 1

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Definition: Date on which commencement of treatment occurs.

Context: Alcohol and other drug treatment services. Required to identify the commencement of treatment in a service.

Relational and representational attributes

Data type: Numeric **Representational form:** DATE

Field size: **Min.** 8 **Max.** 8 **Representational layout:** DDMMYYYY

Data domain: Valid dates

Guide for use: The first date of treatment is the first service contact when assessment and/or treatment occurs.

Verification rules: Must be less than or equal to the Date of cessation of treatment.

Collection methods:

Related data: Relates to the data element concept Commencement of treatment, version 1

Administrative attributes

Source document:

Source organisation: Inter-governmental Committee on Drugs National Minimum Data Set Working Group

National minimum data sets:

Alcohol and other drug treatment services from 1/07/2000 to

Comments:

Establishment identifier

Admin. status: CURRENT 01/07/1997

Identifying and definitional attributes

Knowledgebase ID: 000050 **Version number:** 2

Data element type: COMPOSITE ELEMENT

Definition: Identifier for the establishment in which episode or event occurred. Each separately administered health care establishment to have a unique identifier at the national level.

Context: Public hospital establishments and admitted patient care.

Relational and representational attributes

Data type: Alphanumeric **Representational form:** CODE

Field size: **Min.** 6 **Max.** 6 **Representational layout:** NNANNN

Data domain: Concatenation of:
N - State identifier
N - Establishment sector
A - Region code
NNN - Establishment number

Guide for use: If data is supplied on computer media, this item is only required once in the header information. If information is supplied manually, this item should be provided on each form submitted.

Verification rules:

Related data: Is composed of State identifier, version 2
Is composed of Establishment sector, version 2
Is composed of Region code, version 2
Is composed of Establishment number, version 2
Supersedes previous data element Establishment identifier, version 1

Administrative attributes

Source document:

Source organisation: National Health Data Committee

National minimum data sets:

Admitted patient care	from 1/07/2000 to
Public hospital establishments	from 1/07/2000 to
Admitted patient mental health care	from 1/07/2000 to
Perinatal	from 1/07/1997 to
Community mental health care	from 1/07/2000 to

Admitted patient palliative care from 1/07/2000 to

Alcohol and other drug treatment services from 1/07/2000 to

Comments:

A residential establishment is considered to be separately administered if managed as an independent institution for which there are financial, budgetary and activity statistics. For example, if establishment-level data for components of an area health service are not available separately at a central authority, this is not grounds for treating such components as a single establishment unless such data are not available at any level in the healthcare system.

This item is now being used to identify hospital contracted care. The use of this item will lead to reduced duplication in reporting patient activity and will enable linkage of services to one episode of care.

Establishment number

Admin. status: CURRENT 01/07/1997

Identifying and definitional attributes

Knowledgebase ID: 000377 **Version number:** 2

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Definition: An identifier for establishment, unique within the State or Territory.

Context: Public hospital establishments and admitted patient care.

Relational and representational attributes

Data type: Numeric **Representational form:** CODE

Field size: **Min.** 3 **Max.** 3 **Representational layout:** NNN

Data domain:

Guide for use:

Verification rules:

Related data: Is a composite part of Establishment identifier, version 2

Administrative attributes

Source document:

Source organisation:

National minimum data sets:

Admitted patient care from 1/07/2000 to

Public hospital establishments from 1/07/2000 to

Admitted patient mental health care from 1/07/2000 to

Perinatal from 1/07/1997 to

Alcohol and other drug treatment services from 1/07/2000 to

Emergency department waiting times from 1/07/1999 to

Comments: This data element supports the provision of unit record and/or summary level data by State and Territory health authorities as part of the Emergency Department Waiting Times National Minimum Data Set.

Establishment sector

Admin. status: CURRENT 01/07/1997

Identifying and definitional attributes

Knowledgebase ID: 000379 **Version number:** 2

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Definition: A section of the health care industry.

Context: Public hospital establishments and admitted patient care.

Relational and representational attributes

Data type: Numeric **Representational form:** CODE

Field size: **Min.** 1 **Max.**1 **Representational layout:** N

Data domain:

- 1 Public
- 2 Private
- 3 Repatriation

Guide for use

Verification rules:

Related data: Relates to the data element Hospital, version 1
Is composite part of Establishment identifier, version 2

Administrative attributes

Source document:

Source organisation:

National minimum data sets:

Public hospitals establishments	from 1/07/2000 to
Admitted patient care	from 1/07/2000 to
Admitted patient mental health care	from 1/07/2000 to
Perinatal	from 1/07/1997 to
Alcohol and other drug treatment services	from 1/07/2000 to

Establishment type

Admin. status: CURRENT 01/07/1989

Identifying and definitional attributes

Knowledgebase ID: 000327 *Version number:* 1

Data element type: DATA ELEMENT

Definition: Type of establishment (defined in terms of legislative approval, service provided and patients treated) for each separately administered establishment.
Residential establishments are considered to be separately administered if managed as an independent unit in terms of financial, budgetary and activity statistics. The situation where establishment-level data, say for components of an area health service, were not available separately at a central authority was not grounds for treating such a group of establishments as a single establishment unless such data were not available at any level in the healthcare system.

Non-residential health services are classified in terms of separately administered organisations rather than in terms of the number of sites at which care is delivered. Thus, domiciliary nursing services would be counted in terms of the number of administered entities employing nursing staff rather than in terms of the number of clinic locations used by the staff.

Establishments can cater for a number of activities and in some cases separate staff and financial details are not available for each activity. In these cases it is necessary to classify the establishment according to its predominant residential activity (measured by costs) and to allocate all the staff and finances to that activity. Where non-residential services only are provided at one establishment, that establishment is classified according to the predominant non-residential activity (in terms of costs).

Context: Health services: type of establishment is required in order to aggregate establishment-level data into meaningful summary categories (for example, public hospitals, nursing homes) for reporting and analysis.

Relational and representational attributes

Data type: Alphanumeric *Representational form:* CODE

Field size: *Min.* 2 *Max.* 6 *Representational layout:* AN.N.N

Data domain: N7.1 Public day centre/hospital
N7.2 Public freestanding day surgery centre
N7.3 Private day centre/hospital

N7.4 Private freestanding day surgery centre

N8.1.1 Public community health centre

N8.1.2 Private (non-profit) community health centre

N8.2.1 Public domiciliary nursing service

N8.2.2 Private (non-profit) domiciliary nursing service

N8.2.3 Private (profit) domiciliary nursing service

R1.1 Public acute care hospital

R1.2 Private acute care hospital

R1.3.1 Veterans Affairs hospital

R1.3.2 Defence force hospital

R1.3.3 Other Commonwealth hospital

R2.1 Public psychiatric hospital

R2.2 Private psychiatric hospital

R3.1 Private charitable nursing home for the aged

R3.2 Private profit nursing home for the aged

R3.3 Government nursing home for the aged

R3.4 Private charitable nursing home for young disabled

R3.5 Private profit nursing home for young disabled

R3.6 Government nursing home for young disabled

R4.1 Public alcohol and drug treatment centre

R4.2 Private alcohol and drug treatment centre

R5.1 Charitable hostels for the aged

R5.2 State government hostel for the aged

R5.3 Local government hostel for the aged

R5.4 Other charitable hostel

R5.5 Other State government hostel

R5.6 Other local government hostel

R6.1 Public hospice

R6.2 Private hospice

Guide for use:

Establishments are classified into 10 major types subdivided into major groups:

- residential establishments (R)
- non-residential establishments (N)

R1 Acute care hospitals

Establishments which provide at least minimal medical, surgical or obstetric services for in-patient treatment and/or care, and which provide round-the-clock comprehensive qualified nursing service as well as other necessary professional services. They must be licensed by the State health department, or controlled by government departments. Most of the patients have acute conditions or temporary ailments and the average stay per admission is relatively short.

Hospitals specialising in dental, ophthalmic aids and other specialised medical or surgical care are included in this category. Hospices (establishments providing palliative care to terminally ill patients) that are freestanding and do not provide any other form of acute care are classified to R6.

R2 Psychiatric hospitals

Establishments devoted primarily to the treatment and care of in-patients with psychiatric, mental or behavioural disorders. Private hospitals formerly approved by the Commonwealth Department of Health under the *Health Insurance Act 1973* (Cwlth) (now licensed/approved by each State health authority) catering primarily for patients with psychiatric or behavioural disorders are included in this category.

Centres for the non-acute treatment of drug dependence, developmental and intellectual disability are not included here (see below). This code also excludes institutions mainly providing living quarters or day care.

R3 Nursing homes

Establishments which provide long-term care involving regular basic nursing care to chronically ill, frail, disabled or convalescent persons or senile inpatients. They must be approved by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Family Services and/or licensed by the State, or controlled by government departments. Private-profit nursing homes are operated by private profit-making individuals or bodies.

Private charitable nursing homes are participating nursing homes operated by religious and charitable organisations.

Government nursing homes are nursing homes either operated by or on behalf of a State or Territory government.

R4 Alcohol and drug treatment centres

Freestanding centres for the treatment of drug dependence on an inpatient basis.

R5 Hostels and residential services

Establishments run by public authorities or registered non-profit organisation to provide board, lodging or accommodation for the aged, distressed or disabled who cannot live independently but do not need nursing care in a hospital or nursing home. Only hostels subsidised by the Commonwealth are included.

Separate dwellings are not included, even if subject to an individual rental rebate arrangement. Residents are generally responsible for their own provisions, but may be provided in some establishments with domestic assistance (meals, laundry, personal care). Night shelters providing only casual accommodation are excluded.

R6 Hospices

Establishments providing palliative care to terminally ill patients. Only freestanding hospices which do not provide any other form of acute care are included in this category.

N7 Same-day establishments

Includes both the traditional day centre/hospital and also freestanding day surgery centres.

Day centres/hospitals are establishments providing a course of acute treatment on a full-day or part-day non-residential attendance basis at specified intervals over a period of time. Sheltered workshops providing occupational or industrial training are excluded.

Freestanding day surgery centres are hospital facilities providing investigation and treatment for acute conditions on a day-only basis and are approved by the Commonwealth for the purposes of basic table health insurance benefits.

N8 Non-residential health services

Services administered by public authorities or registered non-profit organisations which employ full-time equivalent medical or paramedical staff (nurses, nursing aides, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and psychologists, but not trade instructors or teachers). This definition distinguishes health services from welfare services (not within the scope of the NMDS) and thereby excludes such services as sheltered workshops, special schools for the intellectually disabled, meals on wheels and baby clinics offering advisory services but no actual treatment. Non-residential health services should be enumerated in terms of services or organisations rather than in terms of the number of sites at which care is delivered.

Non-residential health services provided by a residential establishment (for example domiciliary nursing service that is part of a public hospital) should not be separately enumerated.

N8.1 Community health centres

Public or registered non-profit establishments in which a range of non-residential health services is provided in an integrated and coordinated manner, or which provides for the coordination of health services elsewhere in the community.

N8.2 Domiciliary nursing service

Public or registered non-profit or profit-making establishments providing nursing or other professional paramedical care or treatment to patients in their own homes or in (non-health)

residential institutions. Establishments providing domestic or housekeeping assistance are excluded by the general definition above.

Note that national minimum data sets currently include only community health centres and domiciliary nursing services.

Verification rules:

Related data:

Administrative attributes

Source document:

Source organisation: National Health Data Committee

Comments:

In the current data element, the term establishment is used in a very broad sense to mean bases, whether institutions, organisations or the community from which health services are provided. Thus, the term covers conventional health establishments and also organisations that may provide services in the community. This data element is currently under review by the Organisational Units Working Group of the National Health Data Committee. Recommendations will provide a comprehensive coverage of the health service delivery sector.