

Foreword

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

This edition includes a new subject/keyword index to assist users to explore the Dictionary for national data standards in their areas of interest. Data elements in this edition continue to be presented in a format based on the 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. As in Version 7.0, data elements are also presented according to their alignment to entities in the National Health Information Model.

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, representatives of private hospitals and the private health insurance industry cooperate to produce in the Dictionary a set of core definitions and data items for use in all Australian health data collections. Use of the Dictionary will help ensure that data elements are collected uniformly from all services and jurisdictions throughout Australia and thereby improve the quality of information for community discussion and public policy debate on health issues in Australia.

The Dictionary was first made available in electronic form from July 1997 via the Knowledgebase – Australia's Health and Community Services Data Registry (formerly known as the National Health Information Knowledgebase or NHIK). The Knowledgebase has been updated to incorporate this eighth version of the Dictionary and is accessible via the Institute's world wide web home page (<http://www.aihw.gov.au>). The Knowledgebase has become a standard form of release for the Dictionary and, as world wide web access becomes more common, the requirement for this publication in hard copy has diminished. A downloadable copy of the Dictionary is also available from the Internet through the Publications area of the Institute's home page.

Thanks are due to Joe Christensen, Trish Ryan, and Alannah Smith of the Institute staff who have prepared the material for this eighth edition, and to all members of the National Health Data Committee who have overseen its preparation.

I urge all collectors of health-related data in Australia to use the Dictionary and so improve the comparability and quality of Australian health data. The Dictionary content has been expanding beyond institutional health care, and many of the new data elements relate to other sectors of health care.

The National Health Data Committee and the Institute continue to welcome comment on the Dictionary. Readers are encouraged to complete and return the lift-out feedback sheet included at the back of the Dictionary. In addition, should readers have any views on future improvements to the Dictionary, please contact the Institute so that the issues can be addressed.

Richard Madden
Director
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Copyright and Year 2000 Processing – Statement and Disclaimer

Copyright

© Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 1999

This work is copyright. You may download, display, print and reproduce this material in unaltered form only (retaining this notice) for your personal, non-commercial use or use within your organisation. All other rights are reserved. Requests and enquiries concerning reproduction and rights should be directed to the Head, Communication and Public Affairs Unit, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, GPO Box 570, Canberra ACT 2601.

ISBN 0 642 39579 9

ISSN 1329-4555

Acrobat® Reader Copyright

Acrobat® Reader copyright © 1987–1997 Adobe Systems Incorporated. All rights reserved. Adobe and Acrobat are trademarks of Adobe Systems Incorporated.

Statement under Section 8, Year 2000 Information Disclosure Act 1999

Users of the electronic version of the *National Health Data Dictionary* are advised that the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare cannot confirm that the electronic version will operate correctly in relation to Year 2000 processing. There may also be difficulty in detecting, preventing or remedying any problems with the electronic version relating to Year 2000 processing.

Any problems with the electronic version relating to Year 2000 processing may have adverse consequences or implications for the supply of goods or services, or for contingency planning, risk management, remediation efforts or other arrangements for dealing with such consequences or implications.

Any problems with the electronic version relating to Year 2000 processing may have adverse consequences or implications for the activities or capabilities of a person or persons, or for contingency planning, risk management, remediation efforts or other arrangements for dealing with such consequences or implications.

This statement is a Year 2000 disclosure statement for the purposes of the *Year 2000 Information Disclosure Act 1999*. A person may be protected by that Act from liability by this statement in certain circumstances. This statement is authorised by Joe Christensen, Head, National Information Development Unit, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

Disclaimer

As a consequence of the above-mentioned uncertainties as to possible problems with Year 2000 processing, users of the electronic version of the *National Health Data Dictionary* are warned that the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare accepts no responsibility for any consequences of, or any loss or liability caused by, any failure of, or failure of access to, that electronic version due to problems with Year 2000 processing.

Foreword

Year 2000 Processing – Statement and Disclaimer

Index to data element definitions

Alphabetical index to data element definitions

Introduction

The National Health Data Committee

The Knowledgebase – Australia’s Health and Community Services Data Registry

National Minimum Data Sets

Version 8.0

Feedback

Secretariat contact details

Index to data element definitions

Page No.

Party characteristics: Person characteristic

Demographic characteristic:

Country of birth	3
Date of birth	4
Indigenous status	5
Period of residence in Australia	7
Sex	8

Physical characteristic:

Adult abdominal circumference (<i>concept</i>)	10
Adult abdominal circumference – measured	11
Adult abdomen to hip ratio	15
Adult body mass index	17
Adult body mass index – classification	20
Adult height (<i>concept</i>)	23
Adult height – measured	24
Adult height – self-reported	28
Adult hip circumference (<i>concept</i>)	31
Adult hip circumference – measured	32
Adult weight (<i>concept</i>)	35
Adult weight – measured	36
Adult weight – self-reported	39

Labour characteristic:

Occupation of person	45
Employment status – acute hospital and private psychiatric hospital admissions	47
Employment status – public psychiatric hospital admissions	49
Health labour force (<i>concept</i>)	51
Classification of health labour force job	52
Principal area of clinical practice	55
Profession labour force status of health professional	57
Hours worked by health professional	60
Hours on-call (not worked) by medical practitioner	62
Hours worked by medical practitioner in direct patient care	63
Total hours worked by a medical practitioner	64
Principal role of health professional	66
Surgical specialty	68

Lifestyle characteristic:

Tobacco smoking status	70
Tobacco smoking – consumption/quantity (cigarettes)	72
Tobacco smoking – duration (daily smoking)	74
Tobacco smoking – ever-daily use	76
Tobacco smoking – frequency	78
Tobacco smoking – product	80
Tobacco smoking – start age (daily smoking)	82
Tobacco smoking – quit age (daily smoking)	84
Tobacco smoking – time since quitting (daily smoking)	86

Social characteristic:	
Marital status	91
Preferred language	93
Need for interpreter service	97
Accommodation characteristic:	
Type of accommodation	98
Type of usual accommodation	100
Insurance/benefit characteristic:	
Hospital insurance status	102
Pension status – nursing home residents	104
Pension status – psychiatric patients	105
Compensable status	106
Legal characteristic:	
Mental health legal status	107
Party characteristics: State of health and wellbeing:	
Health status:	
Physical wellbeing:	
Diagnosis (<i>concept</i>)	111
Additional diagnosis	113
Principal diagnosis	115
Diagnosis related group	117
Major diagnostic category	119
Nursing diagnosis	121
Neonate (<i>concept</i>)	123
Neonatal morbidity	124
Birthweight (<i>concept</i>)	125
Apgar score at 1 minute	126
Apgar score at 5 minutes	127
Complications of pregnancy	128
Date of completion of last previous pregnancy	129
Outcome of last previous pregnancy	130
First day of the last menstrual period	131
Maternal medical conditions	132
Gestational age (<i>concept</i>)	133
Gestational age	134
Congenital malformations	135
Congenital malformations – BPA code	136
Infant weight, neonate, stillborn	137
Status of the baby	138
Perinatal period (<i>concept</i>)	139
Perineal status	140
Postpartum complication	141
Previous pregnancies	142
Behaviour-related nursing requirements – at nursing home admission	144
Behaviour-related nursing requirements – at nursing home, current status	145
Continence status (faeces) of nursing home resident – at admission	146
Continence status (faeces) of nursing home resident – current status	147
Continence status (urine) of nursing home resident – at admission	148
Continence status (urine) of nursing home resident – current status	149
Functional profile of nursing home resident – at admission	150
Functional profile of nursing home resident – current status	151
Specialised nursing requirements – at nursing home admission	152
Specialised nursing requirements – current status	153
Bodily location of main injury	154

Nature of main injury – non-admitted patient	156
--	-----

Functional wellbeing:

Dependency in activities of daily living	159
Carer availability	162

Party characteristics: Organisation characteristic:

Establishment type	167
Establishment identifier	171
Establishment number	173
Region code	174
Teaching status	175
Specialised service indicators	177

Location:**Address:**

Area of usual residence	183
Geographical location of establishment	185
State identifier	187
State/Territory of birth	188

Setting:**Organisational setting:**

Establishment sector	189
Type and sector of employment establishment	190

Service delivery setting:

Hospital (<i>concept</i>)	192
Intensive care unit (<i>concept</i>)	193

Other setting:

Actual place of birth	195
Location immediately prior to admission to nursing home	196
Place of occurrence of external cause of injury – admitted patient	197
Place of occurrence of external cause of injury – non-admitted patient	198

Expenditure:**Capital expenditure:**

Capital expenditure	203
Capital expenditure – gross (accrual accounting)	205
Capital expenditure – net (accrual accounting)	207

Recurrent expenditure:

Administrative expenses	208
Depreciation	209
Domestic services	210
Drug supplies	211
Food supplies	212
Full-time equivalent staff	213
Indirect health care expenditure	215
Interest payments	217
Medical and surgical supplies	218

Non-salary operating costs	219
Other recurrent expenditure	221
Patient transport	222
Payments to visiting medical officers	223
Repairs and maintenance	224
Salaries and wages	225
Superannuation employer contributions (including funding basis)	227
Outcome:	
Stated outcome:	
Health outcome (<i>concept</i>)	231
Health outcome indicator (<i>concept</i>)	232
Expected outcome:	
Goal of care	233
Party role:	
Recipient role:	
Person identifier	239
Patient (<i>concept</i>)	240
Admitted patient (<i>concept</i>)	241
Non-admitted patient (<i>concept</i>)	243
Overnight-stay patient (<i>concept</i>)	244
Same-day patient (<i>concept</i>)	246
Inter-hospital same-day contracted patient	248
Hospital boarder (<i>concept</i>)	249
Medicare number	250
Department of Veterans' Affairs file number	251
Event: Person event:	
Birth event:	
Live birth (<i>concept</i>)	255
Onset of labour	256
Complication of labour and delivery	257
Type of augmentation of labour	258
Type of labour induction	259
Method of birth	260
Presentation at birth	261
Birth order	262
Birth plurality	263
Resuscitation of baby	264
Life event: Crisis event:	
Injury event:	
Activity when injured	265
External cause – admitted patient	267
External cause – human intent	269
External cause – non-admitted patient	271
Narrative description of injury event	273
Death event:	
Neonatal death (<i>concept</i>)	274
Stillbirth (foetal death) (<i>concept</i>)	275

Event: Health and welfare service event:**Request for/entry into service event:**

Admission (<i>concept</i>)	279
Admission date	280
Admission time	282
Mode of admission	283
Type of nursing home admission	284
Date of first contact	285
Elective care (<i>concept</i>)	287
Non-elective care (<i>concept</i>)	288
Elective surgery (<i>concept</i>)	289
Hospital waiting list (<i>concept</i>)	290
Waiting list category	291
Listing date	295
Patient listing status	296
Reason for removal	298
Patient presentation at Emergency Department (<i>concept</i>)	300
Date patient presents	301
Time patient presents	302
Type of visit	303
Source of referral to public psychiatric hospital	305
Previous specialised treatment	306

Service provision event:

Acute care episode for admitted patients (<i>concept</i>)	311
Type of episode of care	312
Clinical intervention (<i>concept</i>)	316
Procedure	318
Indicator procedure	320
Date of first delivery of service	324
Date of service event	326
Time of service event	327
Day program attendances	328
Group sessions	329
Individual/group session	330
Service contact (<i>concept</i>)	331
Service contact date	333
Number of contacts (psychiatric outpatient clinic/day program)	334
Number of service contact dates	335
Number of days in special/neonatal intensive care	336
Minutes of operating theatre time	337
Qualification status	338
Date of change to qualification status	339
Anaesthesia administered during labour	340
Analgesia administered during labour	341
Nursing interventions	342

Exit/leave from service event:

Separation (<i>concept</i>)	347
Separation date	348
Mode of separation	349
Referral to further care (psychiatric patients)	351
Date of last contact	352
Departure status	353
Number of leave periods	355
Total leave days	356

Assessment event:

Clinical review (<i>concept</i>)	358
Clinical urgency	359
Category reassignment date	361
Date of triage	362
Time of triage	363
Triage category	364
Level of care	366
Patient accommodation eligibility status	368
Aged care assessment status	370

Planning event:

Intended length of hospital stay	371
Intended place of birth	372
Scheduled admission date	373

Business factors: Business statement:**Health and welfare policy/plan element:****Performance indicator:**

Hospital census (<i>concept</i>)	377
Census date	378
Extended wait patient	379
Overdue patient	380
Waiting time at a census date	382
Waiting time at admission	384
Patient days	386
Total psychiatric care days	388
Type of admitted patient care for long-stay patients	391
Type of admitted patient care for overnight patients	392
Type of admitted patient care for same-day patients	394
Type of admitted patient care for short-stay patients	396
Type of non-admitted patient care	397
Type of non-admitted patient care (nursing homes and hostels)	401
Type of non-admitted patient care (public psychiatric, alcohol and drug)	402
Patients in residence at year end	405
Separations	406
Emergency Department waiting time to admission	407
Emergency Department waiting time to service delivery	408
Occasions of service	409
Length of stay	410
Number of acute (qualified)/unqualified days for newborns	411

Enabling factors: Resource:**Aggregate resource item:**

Number of available beds for admitted patients	415
--	-----

Specific resource item: Financial resource item:

Patient revenue	416
Recoveries	418
Other revenues	420

Alphabetical index to data element definitions

Data element name	Page no.
Activity when injured, version 1	265
Actual place of birth, version 1	195
Acute care episode for admitted patients, version 1 (<i>concept</i>)	311
Additional diagnosis, version 4	113
Administrative expenses, version 1	208
Admission, version 2 (<i>concept</i>)	279
Admission date, version 4	280
Admission time, version 2	282
Admitted patient, version 2 (<i>concept</i>)	241
Adult abdomen to hip ratio, version 1	15
Adult abdominal circumference, version 1 (<i>concept</i>)	10
Adult abdominal circumference – measured, version 1	11
Adult body mass index, version 1	17
Adult body mass index – classification, version 1	20
Adult height, version 1 (<i>concept</i>)	23
Adult height – measured, version 1	24
Adult height – self-reported, version 1	28
Adult hip circumference, version 1 (<i>concept</i>)	31
Adult hip circumference – measured, version 1	32
Adult weight, version 1 (<i>concept</i>)	35
Adult weight – measured, version 1	36
Adult weight – self-reported, version 1	39
Aged care assessment status, version 1	370
Anaesthesia administered during labour, version 1	340
Analgesia administered during labour, version 1	341
Apgar score at 1 minute, version 1	126
Apgar score at 5 minutes, version 1	127
Area of usual residence, version 3	183
Behaviour-related nursing requirements – at nursing home admission, version 1	144
Behaviour-related nursing requirements – at nursing home, current status, version 1	145
Birth order, version 1	262
Birth plurality, version 1	263
Birthweight, version 1 (<i>concept</i>)	125
Bodily location of main injury, version 1	154
Capital expenditure, version 1	203
Capital expenditure – gross (accrual accounting), version 2	205

◆ Indicates a new data element

∇ Indicates a new version of a data element

Data element name	Page no.
Capital expenditure – net (accrual accounting), version 2	207
Carer availability, version 2	162
Category reassignment date, version 2	361
Census date, version 2	378
Classification of health labour force job, version 1	52
Clinical intervention, version 1 (<i>concept</i>) ♦	316
Clinical review, version 1 (<i>concept</i>)	358
Clinical urgency, version 2	359
Compensable status, version 2	106
Complication of labour and delivery, version 2	257
Complications of pregnancy, version 2	128
Congenital malformations, version 2	135
Congenital malformations – BPA code, version 1	136
Continence status (faeces) of nursing home resident – at admission, version 2	146
Continence status (faeces) of nursing home resident – current status, version 2	147
Continence status (urine) of nursing home resident – at admission, version 2	148
Continence status (urine) of nursing home resident – current status, version 2	149
Country of birth, version 2	3
Date of birth, version 2	4
Date of change to qualification status, version 1	339
Date of completion of last previous pregnancy, version 1	129
Date of first contact, version 2	285
Date of first delivery of service, version 2	324
Date of last contact, version 2	352
Date of service event, version 1	326
Date of triage, version 1	362
Date patient presents, version 1	301
Day program attendances, version 1	328
Department of Veterans' Affairs file number, version 1	251
Departure status, version 1	353
Dependency in activities of daily living, version 2	159
Depreciation, version 1	209
Diagnosis, version 1 (<i>concept</i>)	111
Diagnosis related group, version 1	117
Domestic services, version 1	210
Drug supplies, version 1	211
Elective care, version 1 (<i>concept</i>)	287
Elective surgery, version 1 (<i>concept</i>)	289
Emergency Department waiting time to admission, version 1	407
Emergency Department waiting time to service delivery, version 1	408
Employment status – acute hospital and private psychiatric hospital admissions, version 2	47
Employment status – public psychiatric hospital admissions, version 2	49
Establishment identifier, version 2	171
Establishment number, version 2	173

♦ Indicates a new data element

∇ Indicates a new version of a data element

Data element name	Page no.
Establishment sector, version 2	189
Establishment type, version 1	167
Extended wait patient, version 1 ♦	379
External cause – admitted patient, version 4	267
External cause – human intent, version 4	269
External cause – non-admitted patient, version 4	271
First day of the last menstrual period, version 1	131
Food supplies, version 1	212
Full-time equivalent staff, version 2	213
Functional profile of nursing home resident – at admission, version 1	150
Functional profile of nursing home resident – current status, version 1	151
Geographical location of establishment, version 2	185
Gestational age, version 1	134
Gestational age, version 1 (<i>concept</i>)	133
Goal of care, version 2	233
Group sessions, version 1	329
Health labour force, version 1 (<i>concept</i>)	51
Health outcome, version 1 (<i>concept</i>)	231
Health outcome indicator, version 1 (<i>concept</i>)	232
Hospital, version 1 (<i>concept</i>)	192
Hospital boarder, version 1 (<i>concept</i>)	249
Hospital census, version 1 (<i>concept</i>)	377
Hospital insurance status, version 3	102
Hospital waiting list, version 1 (<i>concept</i>)	290
Hours on-call (not worked) by medical practitioner, version 2	62
Hours worked by health professional, version 2	60
Hours worked by medical practitioner in direct patient care, version 2	63
Indicator procedure, version 3	320
Indigenous status, version 2	5
Indirect health care expenditure, version 1	215
Individual/group session, version 1	330
Infant weight, neonate, stillborn, version 3	137
Intended length of hospital stay, version 1	371
Intended place of birth, version 1	372
Intensive care unit, version 1 (<i>concept</i>)	193
Interest payments, version 1	217
Inter-hospital same-day contracted patient, version 1	248
Length of stay, version 1	410
Level of care, version 1	366
Listing date, version 2	295
Live birth, version 1 (<i>concept</i>)	255
Location immediately prior to admission to nursing home, version 1	196
Major diagnostic category, version 1	119
Marital status, version 2	91

♦ Indicates a new data element

∇ Indicates a new version of a data element

Data element name	Page no.
Maternal medical conditions, version 2	132
Medical and surgical supplies, version 1	218
Medicare number, version 1	250
Mental health legal status, version 4∇	107
Method of birth, version 1	260
Minutes of operating theatre time, version 1	337
Mode of admission, version 4∇	283
Mode of separation, version 2	349
Narrative description of injury event, version 1	273
Nature of main injury – non-admitted patient, version 1	156
Need for interpreter service, version 1	97
Neonatal death, version 1 (<i>concept</i>)	274
Neonatal morbidity, version 2	124
Neonate, version 1 (<i>concept</i>)	123
Non-admitted patient, version 1 (<i>concept</i>)	243
Non-elective care, version 1 (<i>concept</i>)	288
Non-salary operating costs, version 1	219
Number of acute (qualified)/unqualified days for newborns, version 1	411
Number of available beds for admitted patients, version 2	415
Number of contacts (psychiatric outpatient clinic/day program), version 1	334
Number of days in special/neonatal intensive care, version 2	336
Number of leave periods, version 3	355
Number of service contact dates, version 2∇	335
Nursing diagnosis, version 2	121
Nursing interventions, version 2	342
Occasions of service, version 1	409
Occupation of person, version 2∇	45
Onset of labour, version 1	256
Other recurrent expenditure, version 1	221
Other revenues, version 1	420
Outcome of last previous pregnancy, version 1	130
Overdue patient, version 3	380
Overnight-stay patient, version 1 (<i>concept</i>)	244
Patient, version 1 (<i>concept</i>)	240
Patient accommodation eligibility status, version 2	368
Patient days, version 2	386
Patient listing status, version 3	296
Patient presentation at Emergency Department, version 1 (<i>concept</i>)	300
Patient revenue, version 1	416
Patient transport, version 1	222
Patients in residence at year end, version 1	405
Payments to visiting medical officers, version 1	223
Pension status – nursing home residents, version 2	104

◆ Indicates a new data element

∇ Indicates a new version of a data element

Data element name	Page no.
Pension status – psychiatric patients, version 2	105
Perinatal period, version 1 (<i>concept</i>)	139
Perineal status, version 1	140
Period of residence in Australia, version 1	7
Person identifier, version 1	239
Place of occurrence of external cause of injury – admitted patient, version 4	197
Place of occurrence of external cause of injury – non-admitted patient, version 3	198
Postpartum complication, version 2	141
Preferred language, version 2	93
Presentation at birth, version 1	261
Previous pregnancies, version 1	142
Previous specialised treatment, version 3 [∇]	306
Principal area of clinical practice, version 1	55
Principal diagnosis, version 3	115
Procedure, version 5 [∇]	318
Principal role of health professional, version 1	66
Profession labour force status of health professional, version 1	57
Qualification status, version 1	338
Reason for removal, version 2	298
Recoveries, version 1	418
Referral to further care (psychiatric patients) , version 1	351
Region code, version 2	174
Repairs and maintenance, version 1	224
Resuscitation of baby, version 1	264
Salaries and wages, version 1	225
Same-day patient, version 1 (<i>concept</i>)	246
Scheduled admission date, version 2	373
Separation, version 2 (<i>concept</i>)	347
Separation date, version 5 [∇]	348
Separations, version 2	406
Service contact, version 1 (<i>concept</i>) [◆]	331
Service contact date, version 1 [◆]	333
Sex, version 2	8
Source of referral to public psychiatric hospital, version 3	305
Specialised nursing requirements – at nursing home admission, version 1	152
Specialised nursing requirements – current status, version 1	153
Specialised service indicators, version 1	177
State identifier, version 2	187
State/Territory of birth, version 1	188
Status of the baby, version 1	138
Stillbirth (foetal death), version 1 (<i>concept</i>)	275
Superannuation employer contributions (including funding basis), version 1	227

◆ Indicates a new data element

∇ Indicates a new version of a data element

Data element name	Page no.
Surgical specialty, version 1	68
Teaching status, version 1	175
Time of service event, version 1	327
Time of triage, version 1	363
Time patient presents, version 1	302
Tobacco smoking – consumption/quantity (cigarettes), version 1 ♦	72
Tobacco smoking – duration (daily smoking), version 1 ♦	74
Tobacco smoking – ever daily use, version 1 ♦	76
Tobacco smoking – frequency, version 1 ♦	78
Tobacco smoking – product, version 1 ♦	80
Tobacco smoking – quit age (daily smoking), version 1 ♦	84
Tobacco smoking status, version 1 ♦	70
Tobacco smoking – start age (daily smoking), version 1 ♦	82
Tobacco smoking – time since quitting (daily smoking), version 1 ♦	86
Total hours worked by a medical practitioner, version 2	64
Total leave days, version 3	356
Total psychiatric care days, version 2	388
Triage category, version 1	364
Type and sector of employment establishment, version 1	190
Type of accommodation, version 2 ▽	98
Type of admitted patient care for long-stay patients, version 3	391
Type of admitted patient care for overnight patients, version 3	392
Type of admitted patient care for same-day patients, version 3	394
Type of admitted patient care for short-stay patients, version 3	396
Type of augmentation of labour, version 1	258
Type of episode of care, version 3	312
Type of labour induction, version 1	259
Type of non-admitted patient care, version 1	397
Type of non-admitted patient care (nursing homes and hostels), version 1	401
Type of non-admitted patient care (public psychiatric, alcohol and drug), version 1	402
Type of nursing home admission, version 1	284
Type of usual accommodation, version 1	100
Type of visit, version 1	303
Waiting list category, version 3	291
Waiting time at a census date, version 1 ♦	382
Waiting time at admission, version 1 ♦	384

♦ Indicates a new data element

▽ Indicates a new version of a data element

Introduction

The *National Health Data Dictionary* was first published as the *National Minimum Data Set—Institutional Health Care* in September 1989. In March 1993 the *National Health Data Dictionary—Institutional Health Care (Version 2.0)* was published. Since the establishment of the first National Health Information Agreement in June 1993 there have been many changes in the development and management of national health information resulting in the expansion of both the scope and content of the six subsequent versions of the *National Health Data Dictionary*. The National Health Information Agreement was renewed in 1998 for a further five-year term.

Under the National Health Information Agreement, the *National Health Data Dictionary* is the authoritative source of health data definitions used in Australia where national consistency is required. The Dictionary is designed to improve the comparability of data across the health field. It is also designed to make data collection activities more efficient by reducing duplication of effort in the field, and more effective by ensuring that information to be collected is appropriate to its purpose.

The objectives of the *National Health Data Dictionary* are to:

- establish a core set of uniform definitions relating to the full range of health services and a range of population parameters (including health status and determinants);
- promote uniformity, availability, reliability, validity, consistency and completeness in the data;
- accord with nationally and internationally agreed protocols and standards, wherever possible; and
- promote the national standard definitions by being readily available to all individuals and organisations involved in the generation, use and/or development of health and health services information.

The development and revision of the *National Health Data Dictionary* is coordinated by the National Health Data Committee.

The National Health Data Committee

The National Health Data Committee is a standing committee of the National Health Information Management Group – a body established under the National Health Information Agreement to oversee implementation of the Agreement. All data element definitions to be included in the *National Health Data Dictionary* require endorsement by the National Health Information Management Group.

The primary role of the National Health Data Committee is to assess data definitions proposed for inclusion in the *National Health Data Dictionary* and to make recommendations to the National Health Information Management Group on revisions and additions to each successive version of the Dictionary. In particular, the Committee's role is to ensure that the *National Health Data Dictionary* definitions comply with endorsed standards for the definition of data elements and that all data definitions being considered for the Dictionary have undergone sufficient national consultation with recognised experts and stakeholders in the relevant field.

The rules applied to each data element definition are designed to ensure that each definition is clear, concise and comprehensive, and provides sufficient information to ensure that all those who collect, provide, analyse and use the data understand its meaning. All definitions in the *National Health Data Dictionary* are presented in a format that is described in more detail at Appendix B.

The National Health Data Committee comprises representatives of:

- the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care
- each State and Territory government health authority
- the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
- the Australian Bureau of Statistics
- the Australian Private Hospitals' Association
- Lysaght's Hospital and Medical Club (representing private health insurance)
- the Department of Veterans' Affairs
- the National Centre for Classification in Health
- other members designated by the National Health Information Management Group.

The National Health Information Management Group appoints the Chair of the National Health Data Committee, currently Geoff Sims of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

A list of Committee members and their contact details (as at February 1999) is provided at Appendix A.

The National Health Data Committee does not normally develop data definitions directly; rather, it provides a channel through which standards emerging from nationally focussed data development work are documented and endorsed by the National Health Information Management Group for implementation in national data collections and made more widely available to stakeholders in the national health information arena. The range and relevance of the data definitions included in the *National Health Data Dictionary* are dependent, to a significant extent, on the material submitted to the National Health Data Committee by the expert working groups that are actively developing data in the health field.

More information about the National Health Data Committee and its processes is available in the *National Health Data Committee: Procedures and Business Plan, 1999*. This document is available in hard copy from the National Health Data Committee Secretariat at the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (see page 5 for Secretariat contact details) or can be downloaded from the Institute's world wide web site at <http://www.aihw.gov.au>.

The Knowledgebase – Australia’s Health and Community Services Data Registry

The Knowledgebase – Australia’s Health and Community Services Data Registry (formerly known as the National Health Information Knowledgebase or NHIK) is an electronically accessible repository of *National Health Data Dictionary* data element definitions. The National Health Information Management Group is the organisation authorised to register *National Health Data Dictionary* data elements (that is, the Registration Authority) in the Knowledgebase. The Knowledgebase is also a data repository for other Registration Authorities approved by the National Health Information Management Group. The Knowledgebase integrates and presents information about:

- the National Health Information Model
- the National Community Services Information Model
- the National Health Data Dictionary
- the National Community Services Data Dictionary
- National Minimum Data Sets
- a national directory of data collections
- the National Health Information Work Program.

The integrating features of the Knowledgebase enable information managers and policy developers to query and view information in ways not possible with traditional paper-based records, repositories, dictionaries or manuals. It is envisaged that, over time, access to the *National Health Data Dictionary* will be primarily electronic – via the Knowledgebase.

All data definitions that are included in Version 8.0 of the *National Health Data Dictionary* are available on the Knowledgebase. Draft data definitions under development by the National Health Data Committee are also available on the Knowledgebase under the section titled National Health Data Committee as Registration Authority, but are not available in print form.

The Knowledgebase has been designed and created by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare on behalf of the National Health Information Management Group. It is an Internet application, accessible through any browser compatible with HTML version 3.2 or later. It has been written using Oracle’s Webserver technology.

The Internet address for the Knowledgebase – Australia’s Health and Community Services Data Registry is <http://www.aihw.gov.au>

National Minimum Data Sets

A National Minimum Data Set is a minimum set of data elements agreed by the National Health Information Management Group for mandatory collection and reporting at a national level. One National Minimum Data Set may include data elements that are also included in another National Minimum Data Set. A National Minimum Data Set is contingent upon a national agreement to collect uniform data and to supply it as part of the national collection, but does not preclude agencies and service providers from collecting additional data to meet their own specific needs.

The *National Health Data Dictionary* contains definitions of data elements that are included in National Minimum Data Set collections in the health sector, including data elements used to derive some of the performance indicators required under Australian Health Care Agreements (bilateral agreements between the Commonwealth and State/Territory governments about the funding and delivery of health services). The Dictionary also contains some data elements that are not currently included in any agreed National Minimum Data Set collection but have been developed and endorsed as appropriate national standards; that is, all data elements used in National Minimum Data Sets are included in the Dictionary, but not all data elements in the Dictionary are included in National Minimum Data Sets.

Version 8.0 of the *National Health Data Dictionary*, identifies data elements from the following National Minimum Data Sets (NMDS):

- Institutional health care NMDS
- Institutional mental health care NMDS

- Community mental health care NMDS
- Injury surveillance NMDS
- Elective surgery waiting times NMDS (formerly named the Waiting times NMDS)
- Emergency Department waiting times NMDS ***(New!)**
- Health labour force NMDS
- Perinatal NMDS
- Palliative care NMDS.

Descriptions of these National Minimum Data Sets can be found at Appendix H and also on the Knowledgebase.

Version 8.0

This version of the Dictionary contains 245 data definitions, including 15 new data elements and 12 new versions of data elements that have been agreed by the members of the National Health Data Committee, and endorsed by the National Health Information Management Group. A full alphabetical listing of all data elements in this version of the Dictionary is provided at the front of this publication. In addition, a new subject/keyword index to this version of the Dictionary is provided at Appendix K.

This hard copy publication of Version 8.0 only includes data elements that are current as at 1 July 1999. However, all data elements including those that have been superseded or rendered obsolete by new data elements or new versions of data elements in Version 8.0, are available on the Knowledgebase.

As in Version 7.0, data definitions 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. This format is explained in detail at Appendix B.

Version 8.0 continues the format of Version 7.0 in that all data elements are organised and presented according to their alignment with entities in the National Health Information Model (Version 2.0, Draft). The mapping of data elements to the Model is being progressively refined following consultation with stakeholders in the national health information field. This presentation format is designed to enhance the integration of the Model with the data elements, thus providing a more complete framework for understanding and implementing existing definitions and for identifying areas for further data development activity. A copy of the full National Health Information Model (Version 2.0, Draft) follows this introductory section.

To assist with understanding the relationship between the data elements and their associated Model entities, definitions of all entities in the National Health Information Model (Version 2.0, Draft) are provided at Appendix C.

Feedback

Readers are invited to comment on any aspect of the *National Health Data Dictionary* by completing and returning the lift-out feedback form included at the back of this publication.

Comments and suggestions can also be provided electronically via the Feedback area on the Knowledgebase.

Secretariat contact details

Further information about the *National Health Data Dictionary* and the National Health Data Committee can be obtained through the National Health Data Committee Secretariat at the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

Joe Christensen Phone: 02 6244 1148
 Fax: 02 6244 1255
 Email: joe.christensen@aihw.gov.au

Trish Ryan Phone: 02 6244 1109
 Fax: 02 6244 1255
 Email: trish.ryan@aihw.gov.au

Alannah Smith Phone: 02 6244 1019
 Fax: 02 6244 1255
 Email: alannah.smith@aihw.gov.au

Postal address: NHDC Secretariat
 AIHW
 GPO Box 570
 Canberra ACT 2601