

Health professional—principal role, code N

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Health professional—principal role, code N

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Principal role of health professional
METEOR identifier:	270145
Registration status:	Health , Superseded 10/12/2009
Definition:	The principal role in which the health professional usually works the most hours each week, as represented by a code.
Data Element Concept:	Health professional—principal role
Value Domain:	Health professional role code N

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Code
Data type:	Number
Format:	N
Maximum character length:	1

	Value	Meaning
Permissible values:	1	Clinician
	2	Administrator
	3	Teacher/educator
	4	Researcher
	5	Public health/health promotion
	6	Occupational health
	7	Environmental health
Supplementary values:	9	Unknown/inadequately described/not stated

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:

CODE 1 Clinician

A clinician is a person mainly involved in the area of clinical practice, i.e. diagnosis, care and treatment, including recommended preventative action, to patients or clients. Clinical practice may involve direct client contact or may be practised indirectly through individual case material (as in radiology and laboratory medicine).

CODE 2 Administrator

An administrator in a health profession is a person whose main job is in an administrative capacity in the profession, e.g. directors of nursing, medical superintendents, medical advisors in government health authorities, health profession union administrators (e.g. Australian Medical Association, Australian Nurses Federation).

CODE 3 Teacher/educator

A teacher/educator in a health profession is a person whose main job is employment by tertiary institutions or health institutions to provide education and training in the profession.

CODE 4 Researcher

A researcher in a health profession is a person whose main job is to conduct research in the field of the profession, especially in the area of clinical activity. Researchers are employed by tertiary institutions, medical research bodies, health institutions, health authorities, drug companies and other bodies.

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CODE 5 Public health/health promotion

CODE 6 Occupational health

CODE 7 Environmental health

Public health/health promotion, occupational health and environmental health are specialties in medicine, and fields of practice for some other health professions. They are public health rather than clinical practice, and hence are excluded from clinical practice.

Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes


Collection methods: For respondents indicating that their principal professional role is in clinical practice, a more detailed identification of that role is established according to profession-specific categories.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: National Health Labour Force Data Working Group

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: Has been superseded by [Registered health professional—principal role, health profession code N](#)
[Health, Standard 10/12/2009](#)

Is re-engineered from  [Principal role of health professional, version 1, DE, NHDD, NHIMG, Superseded 01/03/2005.pdf](#) (17.1 KB)
No registration status

Implementation in Data Set Specifications: [Health labour force NMDS](#)
[Health](#), Superseded 10/12/2009
Implementation start date: 01/07/2005
DSS specific information:

This metadata item provides information on the principal professional role of respondents who currently work within the broad context/discipline field of their profession (as determined by the metadata item Professional labour force status). Identification of clinicians provides comparability with other labour force collections that just include clinicians.

Implementation in Indicators:

Used as Disaggregation

[National Healthcare Agreement: P65-Net growth in health workforce, 2010](#)
[Health](#), Superseded 08/06/2011

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI 33-Full time equivalent employed health practitioners per 1,000 population \(by age group\), 2013](#)
[Health](#), Superseded 30/04/2014

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI 33-Full time equivalent employed health practitioners per 1,000 population \(by age group\), 2014](#)
[Health](#), Superseded 14/01/2015

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI 33-Full time equivalent employed health practitioners per 1,000 population \(by age group\), 2014](#)
[Health](#), Superseded 14/01/2015

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI 33-Full time equivalent employed health practitioners per 1,000 population \(by age group\), 2015](#)
[Health](#), Superseded 08/07/2016

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI 65-Net growth in health workforce, 2011](#)
[Health](#), Superseded 31/10/2011

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI 65-Net growth in health workforce, 2012](#)
[Health](#), Superseded 25/06/2013