

Person—sex, code A

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Person—sex, code A

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Patient sex code
Synonymous names:	PER_GENDER_CODE; SEX
METEOR identifier:	573225
Registration status:	WA Health , Standard 19/03/2015
Definition:	The biological distinction between male and female, as represented by a code.
Data Element Concept:	Person—sex
Value Domain:	Sex code A

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Code	
Data type:	String	
Format:	A	
Maximum character length:	1	
	Value	Meaning
Permissible values:	M	Male
	F	Female
	I	Indeterminate
Supplementary values:	U	Unknown
	N	Not specified

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:	CODE I Indeterminate
	Intersex or indeterminate, refers to a person, who because of a genetic condition, was born with reproductive organs or sex chromosomes that are not exclusively male or female or whose sex has not yet been determined for whatever reason.
Comments:	The definition for Intersex in Guide for use is sourced from the ACT Legislation (Gay, Lesbian and Transgender) Amendment Act 2003.

Source and reference attributes

Origin:	Australian Capital Territory 2003. Legislation (Gay, Lesbian and Transgender) Amendment Act 2003
Reference documents:	Legislation (Gay, Lesbian and Transgender) Amendment Act 2003. See http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/a/2003-14/20030328-4969/pdf/2003-14.pdf .

Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:

This data item is mandatory for national reporting, using the data element:

[Person-sex, code N](#)

Local codes are mapped to national codes for reporting purposes:

Local codes (NAPAAWL codes)	National codes
M Male	1 Male
F Female	2 Female
I Indeterminate	3 Intersex or indeterminate
U Unknown	9 Not stated/inadequately described
N Not specified	

The synonymous name PER_GENDER_CODE is used for local reporting purposes.

The nationally reported data element has the synonymous name SEX.

Collection methods:

Operationally, sex is the distinction between male and female, as reported by a person or as determined by an interviewer.

When collecting data on sex by personal interview, asking the sex of the respondent is usually unnecessary and may be inappropriate, or even offensive. It is usually a simple matter to infer the sex of the respondent through observation, or from other cues such as the relationship of the person(s) accompanying the respondent, or first name. The interviewer may ask whether persons not present at the interview are male or female.

A person's sex may change during their lifetime as a result of procedures known alternatively as sex change, gender reassignment, transsexual surgery, transgender reassignment or sexual reassignment. Throughout this process, which may be over a considerable period of time, the person's sex could be recorded as either Male or Female.

In data collections that use the ICD-10-AM classification, where sex change is the reason for admission, diagnoses should include the appropriate ICD-10-AM code(s) that clearly identify that the person is undergoing such a process. This code(s) would also be applicable after the person has completed such a process, if they have a procedure involving an organ(s) specific to their previous sex (e.g. where the patient has prostate or ovarian cancer).

CODE I Indeterminate

Is normally used for babies for whom sex has not been determined for whatever reason.

Should not generally be used on data collection forms completed by the respondent.

Should only be used if the person or respondent volunteers that the person is intersex or where it otherwise becomes clear during the collection process that the individual is neither male nor female.

CODE U and CODE N Unknown/Not specified

Is not to be used on primary collection forms. It is primarily for use in administrative collections when transferring data from data sets where the item has not been collected.

Source and reference attributes

Origin: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)
National Mortality Database 1997/98 AIHW 2001
National Diabetes Register, Statistical Profile, December 2000 (Diabetes Series No. 2)

Reference documents: Australian Bureau of Statistics
AS4846 Health Care Provider Identification, 2004, Sydney: Standards Australia
AS5017 Health Care Client Identification, 2002, Sydney: Standards Australia
In AS4846 and AS5017 alternative codes are presented. Refer to the current standard for more details.

Relational attributes

Related metadata references:

See also [Person—sex, code N](#)
[Children and Families](#), Standard 22/11/2016
[Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 25/08/2005
[Disability](#), Standard 07/10/2014
[Early Childhood](#), Superseded 24/07/2018
[Health](#), Superseded 11/05/2017
[Homelessness](#), Superseded 10/08/2018
[Housing assistance](#), Standard 10/02/2006
[Independent Hospital Pricing Authority](#), Standard 01/11/2012
[Indigenous](#), Superseded 16/10/2017
[National Health Performance Authority \(retired\)](#), Retired 01/07/2016
[Youth Justice](#), Superseded 23/08/2022

See also [Person—sex, code X](#)
[Early Childhood](#), Standard 24/07/2018
[Health](#), Superseded 15/02/2022
[Homelessness](#), Standard 10/08/2018
[Indigenous](#), Superseded 27/08/2023
[Youth Justice](#), Superseded 23/08/2022

Implementation in Data Set Specifications: [WA Health Non-Admitted Patient Activity and Wait List Data Collection \(NAPAAWL DC\) 2013-14](#)

[WA Health](#), Standard 19/03/2015

DSS specific information:

This data item is a mandatory item for national reporting in the:

[Non-admitted patient DSS 2013-14](#)

[Activity based funding: Non-admitted patient care DSS 2013-2014](#)

It is reported nationally using the data element:

[Person-sex, code N](#)

[WA Health Non-Admitted Patient Activity and Wait List Data Collection \(NAPAAWL DC\) 2014-15](#)

[WA Health](#), Standard 24/04/2015

DSS specific information:

This data item is a mandatory item for national reporting in the:

[Non-admitted patient DSS 2014-15](#)

It is reported nationally using the data element:

[Person-sex, code N](#)

[WA Health Non-Admitted Patient Activity and Wait List Data Collection \(NAPAAWL DC\) 2016-17](#)

[WA Health](#), Standard 30/05/2017

DSS specific information:

This data item is a mandatory item for national reporting in the:

[Non-admitted patient NBEDS 2016-17](#)

It is reported nationally against the data element:

[Person-sex, code N](#)