

# Sentinel events NBEDS 2004–2019

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# Sentinel events NBEDS 2004–2019

## Identifying and definitional attributes

**Metadata item type:** Data Set Specification

**METEOR identifier:** 759410

**Registration status:** [Health](#), Standard 20/12/2022

**DSS type:** Data Set Specification (DSS)

**Scope:** The scope of the Sentinel event national best endeavours data set (SE NBEDS) is to collect data about [sentinel events](#) experienced by patients in government health establishments. A sentinel event is a particular type of serious incident that is wholly preventable and has caused serious harm to, or the death of, a patient.

To be classified a sentinel event, a strict set of criteria need to be met:

- The event should not have occurred where preventive barriers are available
- The event is easily recognised and clearly defined
- There is evidence the event has occurred in the past.

Sentinel events are further specified into eight events:

1. Procedures involving the wrong patient or body part resulting in death or major permanent loss of function
2. Suicide of a patient in an inpatient unit
3. Retained instruments or other material after surgery requiring re-operation or further surgical procedure
4. Intravascular gas embolism resulting in death or neurological damage
5. Haemolytic blood transfusion reaction resulting from ABO (blood group) incompatibility
6. Medication error leading to the death of a patient reasonably believed to be due to incorrect administration of drugs
7. Maternal death associated with pregnancy, birth or the puerperium
8. Infant discharged to the wrong family

The list of specified events corresponds to what is listed in the Productivity Commission's *Report on Government Services* (RoGS) (PC 2022)

The SE NBEDS supports the collection of data for the indicator *Australian Health Performance Framework: PI 2.2.3–Sentinel events*.

## Collection and usage attributes

**Statistical unit:** A government health [establishment](#).

**Guide for use:** The SE NBEDS comprises two principal data elements that, in combination, describe the total number and types of sentinel events occurring in a government health establishment. They are collected together and reported as the number of sentinel events occurring during the collection period against each reported type of event.

A third data element reports on the State/Territory to which the data relates.

**Collection methods:** *National reporting requirements*

State and territory health authorities provide the data to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare for national collation, on an annual basis.

The collection of sentinel events data is the responsibility of the health authorities in each of the states and territories. Public reporting against the sentinel events list is included in the Productivity Commission's *Report on Government Services* (RoGS) (PC 2022) as the total number of occurrences of each sentinel event by jurisdiction.

All counts of sentinel events are published at the national, and state and territory level, with the exception of ACT (where the number of events is small and publishing this information might risk exposing the identities of persons involved).

The period for which data are collected and nationally collated is financial years ending 30 June each year.

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2004

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2019

## Source and reference attributes

**Submitting organisation:** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

**Reference documents:** ACSQHC (Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care) 2018. Australian sentinel events list (version 2) - Development and specifications. Canberra: ACSQHC. Viewed 22 June 2022, <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/australian-sentinel-events-list-version-2-development-and-specifications>

PC (Productivity Commission) (2022) Report on Government Services. Canberra: PC. Viewed 22 June 2022, <https://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/report-on-government-services>

## Relational attributes

**Related metadata references:** Has been superseded by [Sentinel events NBEDS 2019-Health](#), Standard 07/09/2023

See also [Australian Health Performance Framework: PI 2.2.3–Sentinel events, 2021](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 07/09/2023

## Metadata items in this Data Set Specification

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	<a href="#">Establishment—Australian state/territory identifier, code N</a>	Mandatory	1
-	<a href="#">Establishment—number of sentinel events, total N[NNN]</a>	Mandatory	8
<b>DSS specific information:</b>			
In the Sentinel events NBEDS, data is collected for government health establishments.			
-	<a href="#">Establishment—type of sentinel event, code N</a>	Mandatory	8