

Episode of care—mental health legal status

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Episode of care—mental health legal status

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type: Data Element Concept

METEOR identifier: 269785

Registration status: [Health](#), Superseded 07/03/2014

Definition: Whether a person is treated on an involuntary basis under the relevant state or territory mental health legislation, at any time during an episode of admitted patient care, an episode of residential care or treatment of a patient/client by a community based service during a reporting period.

Involuntary patients are persons who are detained in hospital or compulsorily treated in the community under mental health legislation for the purpose of assessment or provision of appropriate treatment or care.

Context: Mental health care:

This metadata item is required to monitor trends in the use of compulsory treatment provisions under State and Territory mental health legislation by Australian hospitals and community health care facilities, including 24-hour community based residential services. For those hospitals and community mental health services which provide psychiatric treatment to involuntary patients, mental health legal status information is an essential metadata item within local record systems.

Object Class attributes

Identifying and definitional attributes

Object class: [Episode of care](#)

Definition: A period of health care with a defined start and end.

Specialisation of: [Service episode](#)

Source and reference attributes

Origin: National Health Data Committee

Property attributes

Identifying and definitional attributes

Property: [Mental health legal status](#)

Definition: An indicator of whether care was provided under relevant state or territory mental health legislation compulsory treatment provisions.

Property group: [Legal characteristics](#)

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Data element concept attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use: Approval is required under the state or territory mental health legislation in order to detain patients for the provision of mental health care or for patients to be treated compulsorily in the community.

Relational attributes

Related metadata references:

Has been superseded by [Episode of care—mental health legal status Health](#), Superseded 20/01/2021
[Tasmanian Health](#), Superseded 16/10/2023

Data Elements implementing this Data Element Concept:

[Episode of care—mental health legal status, code N Health](#), Superseded 07/12/2011

[Episode of care—mental health legal status, code N Health](#), Superseded 07/03/2014