Number of leave periods

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary: NHDD

Knowledgebase ID: 000107   Version number: 1

Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT

Registration Authority: NHIMG   Admin status: SUPERSEDED

Effective date: 30-JUN-95

Definition: Number of leave periods* in episode (excluding one-day leave periods for acute and private psychiatric hospital in-patients).

* Leave periods
1. Acute hospitals and private psychiatric hospitals
In-patients who do not require treatment over a weekend or other short period may leave hospital temporarily with the approval of the hospital or treating medical practitioner. Where there is a decision that the patient shall be back in the same hospital within a short time to resume treatment, this absence is defined as 'leave'. Leave of this type should be restricted to a maximum to be determined. The in-patient is discharged if he or she does not return from leave within a specified maximum period (see comments).
2. Public psychiatric hospitals
Person who leaves the hospital for a short period without there being a formal discharge, with or without approval. This may be by arrangement.

For both acute and psychiatric hospitals, leave includes the following categories of leave, including trial leave:
scheduled leave: leave taken by arrangement and according to a schedule;
special care leave: leave recorded for patients who are temporarily transferred from one hospital or residential facility to another for special treatment;
absconded leave: this may occur in psychiatric areas where a patient leaves the facility without authorisation.

Trial leave in which an in-patient leaves a psychiatric facility for a short or extended trial period prior to formal discharge is to be counted as leave.

Context: Institutional health care: recording of leave periods allows for the calculation of patient days excluding leave. This is important for analysis of costs per patient and for planning. The maximum limit allowed for leave affects admission and separation rates, particularly for long-stay patients who may have several leave periods.

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype: Numeric

Representational form: QUANTITATIVE VALUE

Representation layout: NN

Minimum Size: 1

Maximum Size: 2

Guide For Use: Acute hospitals and private psychiatric hospitals
For each leave period, calculate leave days as date of return minus date of leave. Total leave days are the sum of all leave days excluding one-day (that is, overnight) leave periods.

Public psychiatric hospitals
- Total leave days in the episode
- Number of leave periods
- Number of leave periods of length of stay greater than ten days from which patient returned.

Related metadata: is used in the derivation of Length of stay version 1
has been superseded by Number of leave periods version 2

Administrative Attributes

Source Document:

Source Organisation: National Health Data Committee

Comments: .

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

NHIM   Exit / leave from service event

Data Agreements which include this Data Element