
Source of referral

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Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary: NHDD
Knowledgebase ID: 000150 Version number: 1
Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT
Registration Authority: NHIMG Admin status: SUPERSEDED
Effective date: 30-JUN-93
Definition: Source from which the patient was transferred/referred to the hospital.
Context: Institutional health care: to assist in analyses of intersectoral patient flow and health care planning.

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype: Numeric
Representational form: CODE
Representation layout: NN
Minimum Size: 1
Maximum Size: 2
Data Domain: 01 In-patient transferred from another hospital
 02 Statistical admission (as defined in data element Admission date)
 03 Other
 A Acute hospitals and private psychiatric hospitals
 B Public psychiatric hospitals
 01 Private psychiatric practice
 02 Other private medical practice
 03 Other private psychiatric hospital
 04 Other health care establishment
 05 Other private hospital
 06 Law enforcement agency
 07 Other agency
 08 Outpatient department
 09 Other
 10 Unknown

Related metadata: has been superseded by Source of referral to acute hospital or private psychiatric hospital version 3
supplements the data element Mode of separation version 3
supplements the data element Mode of separation version 1

Administrative Attributes

Source Document:

Source Organisation: National Health Data Committee

Comments: Acute hospitals and private psychiatric hospitals
This was a second-level item recommended by the National Committee on Health and Vital Statistics (1979) with the following categories:

1. Private medical practice: referred by an outside medical practitioner (including psychiatrist) for treatment.
2. Hospital: referred from another hospital.
3. Nursing home: referred from a nursing home or hospice.
4. Outpatients department/casualty/emergency: referred from outpatients department or casualty/emergency department. This includes patients referred to casualty by other agencies.
5. Community health service.
6. Other: baby born in hospital or patient referred by an outside agency not listed above; for example, Lifeline, police and so on.
7. Unknown: source of referral not known.

The Morbidity Working Party recommended that only the category for an in-patient transferred or admitted from another hospital was important to collect at the National Minimum Data Set level. Members' experience had shown that the other categories were not very useful in analysis of patient flows or demand for acute hospitals.

Public psychiatric hospitals
The working party on Mental Health Statistics (1975) endorsed the following categories for source of referral:

1. Self or relative
2. Private psychiatrist
3. Other private practitioner
4. Non-psychiatric hospital unit
5. Geriatric unit
6. Psychiatric unit of a general hospital
7. Other in-patient sector
8. Outpatient sector
9. Day patient sector
10. Law enforcement agency

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11. Other non-medical agency
 12. Other.

The working party decided that this data item was useful for psychiatric hospitals. The justification for the extensive source of referral list was that in the psychiatric setting, the treatment network is more extensive due to the longer term nature of the treatment. It is necessary to know about the progress of patients from one institution to the next. Entry and re-entry pathways to psychiatric hospitals are also important.

New South Wales indicated that it would have problems collecting all categories as this would require a change in the collection system. Categories 1+2, 3+4, and 5 were only collected in aggregate form.

The working party agreed to the following categories (noting New South Wales' reservation):

1. Private psychiatric practice: any private psychiatrist not practising in a psychiatric hospital or in an acute hospital.
2. Other private medical practice: any other private medical practitioner not practising as a psychiatrist or in an acute hospital.
3. Other public psychiatric hospital or alcohol and drug facility: any other establishment classified as a public psychiatric hospital or an alcohol and drug hospital (see item E1).
4. Other health care establishment: any other establishment within the scope of the National Minimum Data Set. This includes acute hospitals and private psychiatric hospitals, nursing homes and subsidised hostels and community health centres.
5. Other private hospital.
6. Law enforcement agency: if referred by police or courts.
7. Other agency: if referred by any other social welfare or community agency.
8. Outpatient department.
9. Other: any other source of referral not included in the above categories.
10. Unknown: source of referral not known.

Nursing homes

The Nursing Homes Working Party decided to replace this data item by the item 'Location immediately prior to admission' as distinct from the earlier item of 'usual residence prior to admission'.

[Data Element Links](#)

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

NHIM Request for / entry into service event

Data Agreements which include this Data Element
