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# Principal role of health professional

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**Important note: This is an archived metadata standard from the AIHW Knowledgebase. For current metadata standards and related information please access METeOR, the AIHW's Metadata Online Registry at <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au>**

## *Identifying and Definitional Attributes*

Data Dictionary: NHDD  
Knowledgebase ID: 000138                      Version number: 1  
Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT  
Registration Authority: NHIMG                      Admin status: SUPERSEDED  
Effective date: 01-MAR-05  
Definition: The principal role of a health professional is that in which the person usually works the most hours each week.  
Context: Health labour force:  
This data element provides information on the principal professional role of respondents who currently work within the broad context/discipline field of their profession (as determined by data element Professional labour force status). Identification of clinicians provides comparability with other labour force collections that just include clinicians.

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## *Relational and Representational Attributes*

Datatype: Numeric  
Representational form: CODE  
Representation layout: N  
Minimum Size: 1  
Maximum Size: 1  
Data Domain: 1                      Clinician  
                  2                      Administrator  
                  3                      Teacher/educator  
                  4                      Researcher  
                  5                      Public health/health promotion  
                  6                      Occupational health  
                  7                      Environmental health  
                  8                      Other (specify)  
                  9                      Unknown/inadequately described/not stated  
Guide For Use: Code 1: A clinician is a person mainly involved in the area of clinical practice, i.e. diagnosis, care and treatment, including

recommended preventative action, to patients or clients. Clinical practice may involve direct client contact or may be practised indirectly through individual case material (as in radiology and laboratory medicine).

Code 2: An administrator in a health profession is a person whose main job is in an administrative capacity in the profession, e.g. directors of nursing, medical superintendents, medical advisors in government health authorities, health profession union administrators (e.g. Australian Medical Association, Australian Nurses Federation).

Code 3: A teacher/educator in a health profession is a person whose main job is employment by tertiary institutions or health institutions to provide education and training in the profession.

Code 4: A researcher in a health profession is a person whose main job is to conduct research in the field of the profession, especially in the area of clinical activity. Researchers are employed by tertiary institutions, medical research bodies, health institutions, health authorities, drug companies and other bodies.

Codes 5, 6 and 7: Public health/health promotion, occupational health and environmental health are specialties in medicine, and fields of practice for some other health professions. They are public health rather than clinical practice, and hence are excluded from clinical practice.

Collection Methods: For respondents indicating that their principal professional role is in clinical practice, a more detailed identification of that role is established according to profession-specific categories.

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### *Administrative Attributes*

Source Document:

Source Organisation: National Health Labour Force Data Working Group

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Comments: .

### *Data Element Links*

*Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element*

NHIM                                  Labour characteristic

*Data Agreements which include this Data Element*

NMDS - Health labour force                                  From 01-Jul-95 to

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