

---

# Nursing interventions

---

**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: 000112                      Version number: 1  
Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT  
Registration Authority: NHIMG                      Admin status: SUPERSEDED  
Effective date: 30-JUN-98  
Definition: The nursing action intended to relieve or alter the client's responses to actual or potential health problems.  
Context: Community nursing: the recording of nursing interventions is critical information for health service monitoring and planning. It is a major descriptor of the care provided throughout an episode.

---

## *Relational and Representational Attributes*

Datatype: Numeric  
Representational form: CODE  
Representation layout: N  
Minimum Size: 1  
Maximum Size: 1  
Data Domain: 1                      Coordination and collaboration of care  
2                      Supporting informal carers  
3                      General nursing care  
4                      Technical nursing treatment or procedure  
5                      Counselling and emotional support  
6                      Teaching/education  
7                      Monitoring and surveillance  
8                      Assessment only

Guide For Use: Up to five interventions may be selected.

The following definitions are to assist in coding:

1 Coordination and collaboration of care occurs when there are multiple care deliverers. The goal of coordination and collaboration is the efficient, appropriate delivery of care to the

client. Tasks which may be involved include: liaison, advocacy, planning, referral, information-giving, and client discussion and/or education.

2 Supporting informal carers includes activities which the nurse undertakes to assist the carer in the delivery of the carer's role. This does not include care given directly to the client. Examples of tasks involved in supporting the carer include: counselling, teaching, informing, advocacy, coordinating, and grief or bereavement support.

3 General nursing care includes a broad range of activities which the nurse performs to directly assist the client. In many cases, this assistance will focus on activities of daily living. This assistance will help clients whose health status, level of dependency, and/or therapeutic needs are such that nursing skills are required. Examples of tasks include: assistance with washing, grooming and maintaining hygiene; dressing; pressure area care; assistance with toileting; bladder and bowel care; assistance with mobility and therapeutic exercise; attention to physical comfort; and maintaining a therapeutic environment.

4 Technical nursing treatment or procedure refers to technical tasks and procedures for which nurses receive specific training and which require nursing knowledge of expected therapeutic effect, possible side-effects, complications and appropriate actions related to each. Some examples of technical care activities are: medication administration (including injections), dressings and other procedures, venipuncture, monitoring of dialysis, and implementation of pain management technology.

5 Counselling and emotional support focuses on non-physical care given to the client which aims to address the affective, psychological and/or social needs. Examples of these include: bereavement, wellbeing, decision-making support and values-clarification.

6 Teaching/education refers to providing information and/or instruction about a specific body of knowledge and/or procedure which is relevant to the client's situation. Examples of teaching areas include: disease process, technical procedure, health maintenance, health promotion and techniques for coping with a disability.

7 Monitoring and surveillance refers to any action by which the

nurse evaluates and monitors physical, behavioural, social and emotional responses to disease, injury, and nursing or medical interventions.

8 Assessment only refers to assessment of the client when this is the only activity carried out and no further nursing care is given; for example, assessment for ongoing care and/or inappropriate referrals. Selection of this option means that no other intervention may be nominated. Thus, if an assessment for the Domiciliary Nursing Care Benefit is the reason for a visit, but other interventions are carried out; such as, counselling and support; coordination/collaboration of care; then assessment only is not an appropriate code.

For the purposes of the Community Nursing Services Minimum Data Set - Australia, the interventions are not necessarily linked to each nursing problem, nor are they specific tasks, but rather, broader-level intervention categories focusing on the major areas of client need. These summary categories subsume a range of specific actions or tasks.

Related metadata: is used in conjunction with Nursing diagnosis version 1  
is used in conjunction with Nursing goal version 1  
has been superseded by Nursing interventions version 2

---

### *Administrative Attributes*

Source Document:

Source Organisation: Community Nursing Services Minimum Data Set - Australia,  
Steering Committee

---

Comments: The nursing interventions are summary information, providing an umbrella beneath which nursing activities can be included in an agency information system. They are not intended as a description of nursing activities in the Community Nursing Services Minimum Data Set - Australia.

Collection of this information at discharge carries with it the expectation that nursing records will lend themselves to this level of summarisation of the care episode. The selection of five interventions if more are specified is a potentially subjective task unless the nursing record is structured and clear enough to enable such a selection against the reasons for admission to care, and the major focus of care delivery. Clearly, the task is easier if ongoing automated recording of interventions within an agency information system enables discharge reporting of all

